

**WEST ARNHEM**



**REGIONAL COUNCIL**

West Arnhem Regional Council

# 2026-27 Regional Plan & Budget



## Acknowledgement of Country

West Arnhem Regional Council acknowledges the First Nations Custodians; and the many Language and Family groups who are Managers and Care-takers to each of their Traditional homelands and Waters across the West Arnhem Regions Wards. West Arnhem Regional Council pay their respects and acknowledge Elders, past present and rising.



# Table of Contents



<b>MAYOR &amp; CEO WELCOME</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ABOUT OUR REGION</b>	<b>6</b>
The Region and our Communities	7
Our Councillors	9
Council Committees and Panel	11
Local Authorities	12
Our Organisation	14
<b>STRATEGIC PLAN</b>	<b>16</b>
The Strategic Plan Journey	17
Vision, Purpose and Values	18
Strategic Pillars	19
Service Delivery Plans	20
Major Community Projects	23
Strategic Pillars Plan	24
Pillar 1 - Partnerships, Relationships and Belonging	25
Pillar 2 - Increased Local Indigenous Employment	30
Pillar 3 - Safety and Wellbeing	32
Pillar 4 - Service Delivery and Built Environment	36
Pillar 5 - Sustainability and Climate Action	38
Pillar 6 - Foundations of Governance	40
<b>FRAMEWORK AND ASSESSMENTS</b>	<b>44</b>
Assessment of Administrative and Regulatory Frameworks	45
Cooperative Arrangements	46
Opportunities and Challenges	47
<b>2026-27 BUDGET</b>	<b>48</b>
Budget Discussion	49
Long Term Financial Plan Discussion	52
Additional Funding Being Sought in 2026-27	53
Budget and Long Term Financial Plan	54
Schedule of Fees and Charges 2026-27	60

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People should be aware that this publication may contain images and names of people who have since passed away.*

# Mayor & CEO Welcome



## We are pleased to present the West Arnhem Regional Council 2026–27 Regional Plan and Budget.

We are excited to embark on the year ahead with a new Council and new Local Authorities in each community - bringing together fresh ideas, a shared passion, and a commitment to achieving our vision and purpose.

The new Council term has also brought continued leadership, with James Woods re-elected as Mayor and Jacqueline Phillips elected as Deputy Mayor at the 2025 General Election. We have also welcomed Cr Dwane Baker who was elected at the Kakadu by-election in April.

As the elected representatives, Council takes pride in the deep connections we bring to the table. We believe in our communities and are committed to working together with CEO Katharine Murray for a promising year ahead.

Within our Regional Plan, we have detailed our strategic priorities for the next 12 months, with a strong focus on the areas that support our everyday operations across our five communities:

- Partnerships, Relationships and Belonging
- Increasing Local Indigenous Employment
- Safety and Wellbeing
- Service Delivery and Built Environment
- Sustainability and Climate Action
- Foundations of Governance

These six core pillars guide our decisions, actions, outputs and purpose.

For the year ahead, we have many initiatives planned to help shape a strong future for our region.

We thank our Local Authority members who provide genuine input into their community's aspirations and needs. Through their voice and representation, we ensure local decision-making remains paramount and that Aboriginal communities are empowered with a direct and meaningful say in how Council supports their priorities.

Working with our key stakeholders and funders - the Northern Territory Government and the Australian Government - we will continue to advocate for a seat at the table and maintain a strong voice in decisions that affect our constituents.

We will also continue advocating on the issues that matter most, including funding for critical infrastructure and essential assets such as roads, airstrips, community facilities and essential services for very remote Northern Territory communities. An Advocacy Framework, to be finalised later this year, will guide clear strategies to strengthen our advocacy efforts and help turn priorities into outcomes.

*"Aboriginal communities are empowered with a direct and meaningful say in how Council supports their priorities."*

This year we also celebrate collaboration across the local government sector. This includes strengthening relationships with other councils, including Palmerston City Council and Victoria Daly Regional Council, where our Waste and Resource Team has been sharing knowledge and experience.

We have also strengthened representation on boards and committees that influence our work. Mayor Woods sits as a Board Director on the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory and CEO Katharine Murray sits on the NT Councils Discretionary Trust Advisory Committee.

For our team, Council has committed to developing and delivering meaningful cultural training, with funding allocated in the 2026–27 Budget to support this important work. We are also beginning implementation of the First Nations Employment Plan.

We continue to focus on growing capability within our team through continuous learning and development opportunities. A number of our staff members are currently studying Certificate III qualifications in Civil Construction, Community Services, Individual Support, and Early Childhood Education and Care.

Embedded within Pillar 2 of our Strategic Plan - Increasing Local Indigenous Employment - we are proud to welcome new roles created through the Remote Jobs and Economic Development Program (RJED). These 12 new entry-level positions create meaningful employment pathways for residents across our communities. We look forward to





seeing how this initiative grows and supports increased local employment opportunities.

We also look forward to the delivery of multiple community projects across the region.

#### **Gunbalanya**

- New ablution facility at the billabong
- Rebuild of two community shelters
- Installation of new flag poles

#### **Maningrida**

- Community toilet upgrades
- New water bubbler at the basketball court
- Upgrades to the cultural entrance and exit at the airport shelter

#### **Warruwi**

- New park setting
- Installation of new flag poles

#### **Minjilang**

- Public Wi-Fi installed at Minjilang Office and Recreation Hall
- Installation of new flag poles

#### **Jabiru**

- Town Square revitalisation
- Upgrades to public toilets at Town Square and Football Oval
- New outdoor gym

We thank our Local Authorities for their continued support, as well as the Rio Tinto Social Infrastructure Fund for supporting several Jabiru-based projects.

We also welcome the delivery of two new Hiace buses for Gunbalanya and Maningrida to increase participation in sport and recreation, supported by the Member for Lingiari, the Honourable Marion Scrymgour.

For the first time, Council has allocated \$30,000 to establish a Sponsorship Fund to support local community projects, events and activities that help build stronger, more connected communities across the region. This initiative aligns with Council's strategic pillar Partnerships, Relationships and Belonging and recognises the importance of these grassroots investments.

This sponsorship will support initiatives that enrich community life - particularly opportunities for young people through sport and recreation, wellbeing programs, and arts and culture initiatives.

In August 2026, we look forward to delivering our major annual event, the Kurrung Sports Carnival. This event is a highlight on the West Arnhem calendar, bringing together talented sportspeople from all five communities. It celebrates sportsmanship, teamwork, community spirit and healthy, vibrant communities.

With many exciting initiatives ahead, we look forward to a promising future for our region. A key part of building this bright future will be the commencement of consultation for our next five-year organisational Strategic Plan for 2027 and beyond. To ensure the plan reflects community priorities and provides a clear roadmap for the future, Council will undertake extensive consultation over several months.

This process will include seeking feedback and aspirations from Elected Members, Local Authorities, stakeholders and, importantly, our constituents. We look forward to engaging with you as part of this important process.

Finally, to our constituents, we are excited about the opportunities ahead. Together, we look forward to achieving our goals and continuing to build a brighter future for West Arnhem.



**Mayor James Woods**      **Katharine Murray**  
*West Arnhem Regional Council*    *Chief Executive Officer*



# About Our Region



WEST ARNHEM  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Mayor James Woods and Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips at the first meeting of the newly-elected Council in September 2025.



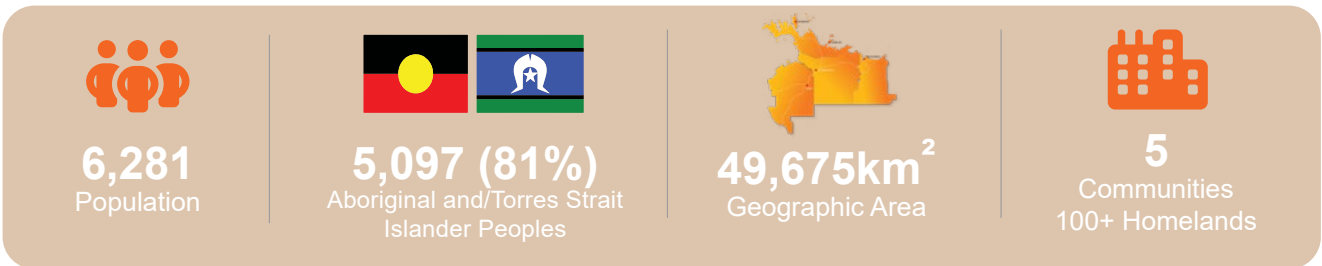
# The Region and Our Communities

West Arnhem Regional Council serves a vast and culturally rich region in the northern reaches of the Northern Territory. Covering almost 50,000 square kilometres, the region stretches across an extraordinary landscape that includes coastal plains, island communities, inland escarpments and river systems. Within this expansive area are five main communities - Maningrida, Gunbalanya, Jabiru, Warruwi and Minjilang - along with more than 100 surrounding homelands that maintain strong cultural and family connections to the region.

The population of the West Arnhem region is approximately

6,281 people. Maningrida, located on the Central Arnhem coast, is the largest community with around 2,518 residents and acts as an important regional hub for many nearby homelands. Gunbalanya, situated inland near the Arnhem Land escarpment, is home to approximately 1,177 people. Jabiru, located within the World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park, has a population of around 755 residents and serves as a key service centre and gateway to the park. The island communities of Warruwi (432 people) and Minjilang (265 people) sit in the Arafura Sea and have strong saltwater cultural traditions.

*Data source: 2021 Census data*



*Data source: 2021 Census data*

## Governance and Community Voice

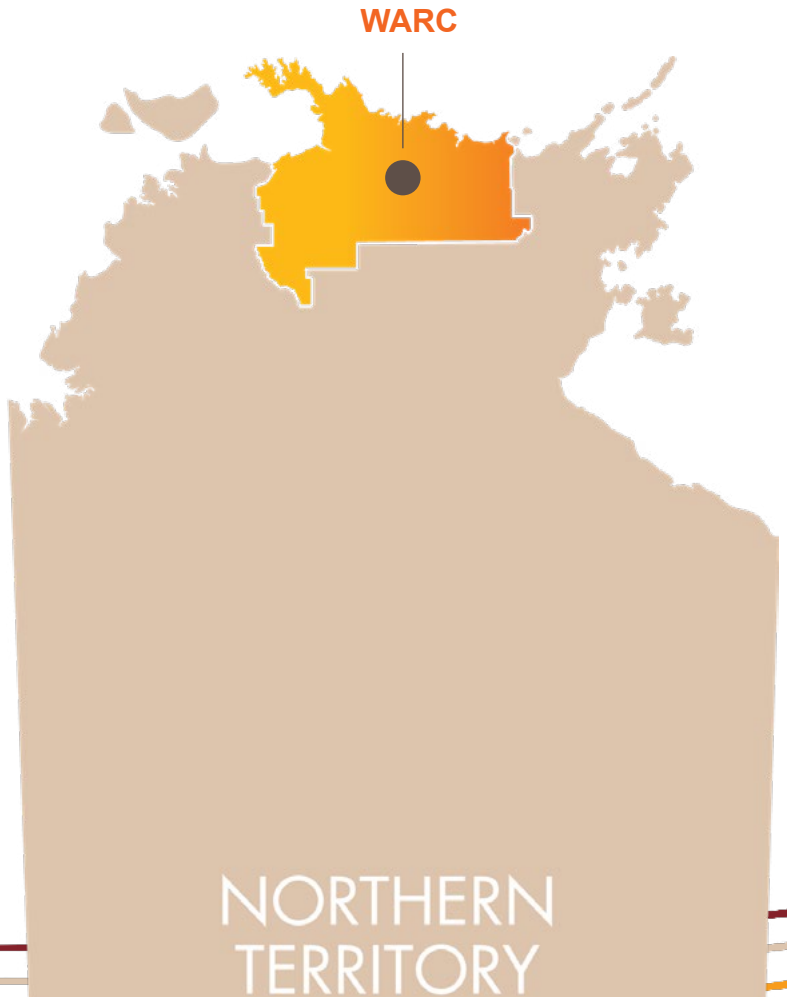
West Arnhem Regional Council plays a key role in supporting these communities through local governance, service delivery and community development. The Council is divided into five wards, represented by 12 elected members who work closely with communities to represent local priorities and guide decision-making across the region.

Community voices are further strengthened through Local Authorities in Maningrida, Gunbalanya, Warruwi and Minjilang. These forums provide an important opportunity for community members to discuss local issues, help shape Council projects and ensure decisions reflect the aspirations and needs of the people who live in the region.

Together, the communities of West Arnhem are connected not only by geography, but by strong cultural ties and shared community life.

## Population

- ▶ Gunbalanya: 1,177 residents
- ▶ Jabiru: 755 residents
- ▶ Maningrida: 2,518 residents
- ▶ Minjilang: 265 residents
- ▶ Warruwi: 432 residents





## Environment and Country

The natural environment of West Arnhem is both spectacular and culturally significant. The region includes sweeping coastlines, wetlands, rivers and billabongs, as well as the rugged stone country and escarpments that form part of the Arnhem Land plateau. The region is also home to two nationally significant protected areas - Kakadu National Park and Garig Gunak Barlu National Park on the Cobourg Peninsula.



28

Median Age



49.1%

Female

50.9%

Male



1,444

Number of Families



2,188

Private dwellings

Data source: 2021 Census data

# Our Councillors



The Council's role is to represent, inform, and make responsible decisions for its constituency. West Arnhem Regional Council are represented by twelve Elected Members across five wards, Maningrida, Warruwi, Gunbalanya, Minjilang and Kakadu. Local Government General Elections were held in September 2025, and a Local Government Supplementary Election was held in December 2025.

## GUNBALANYA WARD



**COUNCILLOR  
DANIEL SIEBERT**



**COUNCILLOR  
HENRY YATES**



**COUNCILLOR  
RALPH MCCOY**

## MANINGRIDA WARD



**MAYOR  
JAMES WOODS**



**DEPUTY MAYOR  
JACQUELINE PHILLIPS**



**COUNCILLOR  
JOSEPH DIDDO**



**COUNCILLOR  
JERMAINE NAMANURKI**

## KAKADU WARD



**COUNCILLOR  
MICKITJA ONUS**



**COUNCILLOR  
RALPH F. BLYTH**



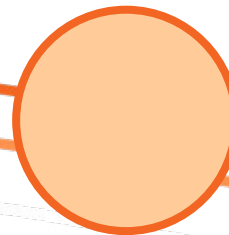
**COUNCILLOR  
DWANE BAKER**

## MINJILANG WARD



**COUNCILLOR  
STEVEN NABALMARDA**

## WARRUWI WARD



**POSITION  
VACANT**

## Current Council

Elected Members represent not only their individual Wards but also the West Arnhem region at Ordinary Council Meetings. They also act on behalf of Council at Local Authority Meetings and the Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee within their respective Wards.

In addition, Council appoint Elected Members to the Finance, Risk Management and Audit formal committees of Council and the Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Advisory Panel.

Elected Members represent Council at Local Government Association of the Northern Territory General Meetings and on various external committees.

### MANINGRIDA WARD

Name	Title	Start date	Basis of office
James Woods	Mayor	23 September 2025	Appointed by Council
	Councillor	8 September 2025	Ordinary Council Member - Elected
Jacqueline Phillips	Deputy Mayor	23 September 2025	Appointed by Council
	Councillor	8 September 2025	Ordinary Council Member - Elected
Jermaine Namanurki	Councillor	8 September 2025	Ordinary Council Member - Elected
Joseph Diddo	Councillor	8 September 2025	Ordinary Council Member - Elected

### WARRUWI WARD

Name	Title	Start date	Basis of office
Vacant	Councillor	(Pending July 2026 By-Election)	Ordinary Council Member - Elected

### GUNBALANYA WARD

Name	Title	Start date	Basis of office
Ralph McCoy	Councillor	8 September 2025	Ordinary Council Member - Elected
Henry Yates	Councillor	8 September 2025	Ordinary Council Member - Elected
Daniel Siebert	Councillor	15 December 2025	Ordinary Council Member - Elected

### MINJILANG WARD

Name	Title	Start date	Basis of office
Steven Nabalmarda	Councillor	8 September 2025	Ordinary Council Member - Elected

### KAKADU WARD

Name	Title	Start date	Basis of office
Ralph F. Blyth	Councillor	8 September 2025	Ordinary Council Member - Elected
Mickitja Onus	Councillor	8 September 2025	Ordinary Council Member - Elected
Dwane Baker	Councillor	8 May 2026	Ordinary Council Member - Elected



# Council Committees and Panel

## Risk Management and Audit Committee

The Risk Management and Audit Committee is an advisory Committee formed in line with section 86 of the *Local Government Act 2019* that assists Council to achieve good governance by the exercising of due care, diligence and skills in relations to Internal and External Control of Audits and Reporting. The Risk Management and Audit Committee will meet four times in 2026 - 2027.

### Committee Members

Vacant (Independent Chair)  
Warren Jackson (Independent Member)  
Mayor James Woods  
Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips  
Cr Ralph F. Blyth  
Cr Mickitja Onus

## Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is constituted as an Executive Committee with all the necessary powers to carry out Council's financial functions in line with section 83(4) of the *Local Government Act 2019*. The Finance Committee was formed to review and approve the monthly finance report in the instance that an Ordinary meeting of Council is not held each month.

### Committee Members

Mayor James Woods  
Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips  
Cr Ralph McCoy  
Cr Mickitja Onus  
Cr Daniel Siebert

## CEO Employment and Remuneration Advisory Panel

The CEO Employment and Remuneration Advisory Panel was re-established in 2024.

The Panel is an advisory panel that assists Council to fulfil its responsibilities relating to the CEO's employment as required under part 9.1 of the *Local Government Act 2019* and Guideline 2: Appointing a CEO. The panel is responsible for ensuring that comprehensive principles of human resource management are applied to the employment of the CEO, and to provide advice to Council on matters relating to the CEO recruitment, performance, professional development, remuneration and conditions of employment.

### Panel Members

Mayor James Woods  
Cr Ralph McCoy  
Cr Ralph F. Blyth  
John Oberhardt (Independent Member)

## Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee

West Arnhem Regional Council established a Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee, pursuant to Part 5.3 of the *Local Government Act 2019*, as a key component of Council's governance framework. The Committee is an independent advisory body formed to strengthen relationships between Council, its staff and the residents of Kakadu by recommendations on improving Council's operations within the Kakadu Ward.

### Committee Members

Mayor James Woods  
Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips  
Cr Mickitja Onus (Chair)  
Cr Ralph F. Blyth  
Cr Dwane Baker



# Local Authorities

Local Authorities play a critical role by providing Council with informed recommendations and feedback from the West Arnhem communities.

The region has four Local Authorities, and each has a minimum representation of six appointed members who reside in the community.

The Local Authorities were dissolved by Council in August 2025 in line with the Northern Territory Local Government General Elections and nominations were called and Community Members were appointed at the first Ordinary Council Meeting. For the 2026-2027 year, each Local Authority is required to meet four times.

## MANINGRIDA LOCAL AUTHORITY

Name	Date of Appointment	Council Member / Community Member
Sharon Hayes	23 September 2025	Community Member
Monica Wilton	23 September 2025	Community Member
Shane Namanurki	23 September 2025	Community Member
Joyce Bohme	23 September 2025	Community Member
Garth Doolan	23 September 2025	Community Member
Marlene Kernan	23 September 2025	Community Member
Vacant		Community Member
James Woods	23 September 2025	Mayor / Ward Council Member / ex-officio
Jacqueline Phillips	23 September 2025	Deputy Mayor / Ward Council Member
Jermaine Namanurki	23 September 2025	Ward Council Member
Joseph Diddo	23 September 2025	Ward Council Member

## WARRUWI LOCAL AUTHORITY

Name	Date of Appointment	Council Member / Community Member
Jason Mayinaj	23 September 2025	Community Member
Jamie Milpurr	23 September 2025	Community Member
Misman Kris	23 September 2025	Community Member
Nicholas Hunter	23 September 2025	Community Member
Richard Nawirr	23 September 2025	Community Member
Renfred Manmurulu	23 September 2025	Community Member
Ida Waianga	28 January 2026	Community Member
James Woods	23 September 2025	Mayor / ex-officio
Vacant		Ward Council Member

## GUNBALANYA LOCAL AUTHORITY

Name	Date of Appointment	Council Member / Community Member
Andy Garnarradj	23 September 2025	Community Member
Evonne Gumurdul	23 September 2025	Community Member
Kenneth Mangiru	23 September 2025	Community Member
Maxwell Garnarradj	23 September 2025	Community Member
Ishmael Wurramara	23 September 2025	Community Member
Kerry Manakgu	23 September 2025	Community Member
Connie Nayinggul	24 February 2026	Community Member
Tamar Nawirridj	24 February 2026	Community Member
James Woods	23 September 2025	Mayor / ex-officio
Ralph McCoy	23 September 2025	Ward Council Member
Henry Yates	23 September 2025	Ward Council Member
Daniel Siebert	15 December 2025	Ward Council Member

## MINJILANG LOCAL AUTHORITY

Name	Date of Appointment	Council Member / Community Member
Matthew Nagarbin	23 September 2025	Community Member
Shane Wauchope	23 September 2025	Community Member
Charles Yirrawala	23 September 2025	Community Member
Clint Wauchope	23 September 2025	Community Member
Josephine Cooper	23 September 2025	Community Member
Lachlan Nabegeyo	23 September 2025	Community Member
James Woods	23 September 2025	Mayor / ex-officio
Steven Nabalmarda	23 September 2025	Ward Council Member



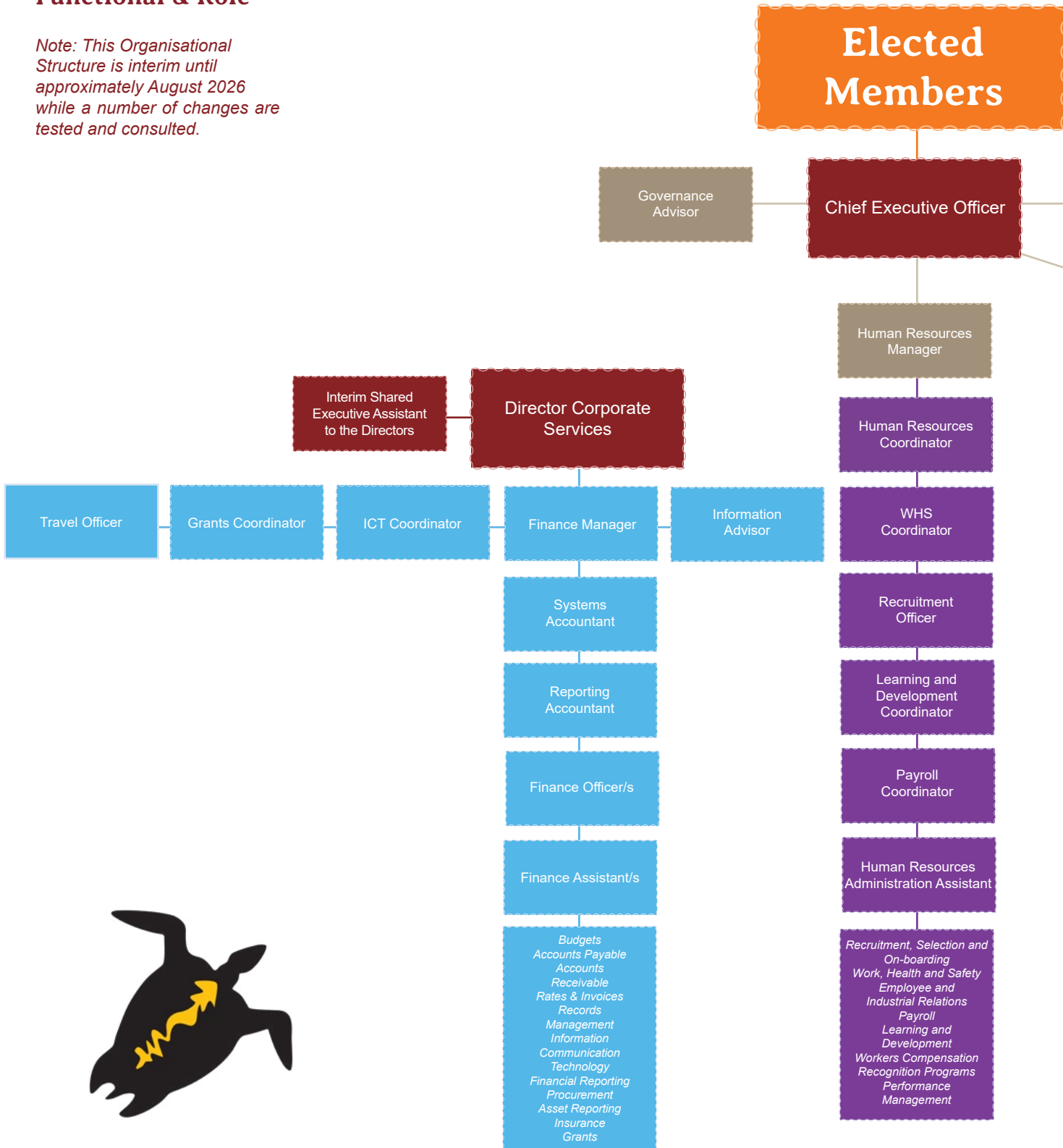
The Minjilang Local Authority,  
Elected Members and Council staff  
in March 2026.



# Our Organisation

## Functional & Role

*Note: This Organisational Structure is interim until approximately August 2026 while a number of changes are tested and consulted.*





Executive Assistant to Mayor and CEO

Communications & Public Relations Coordinator

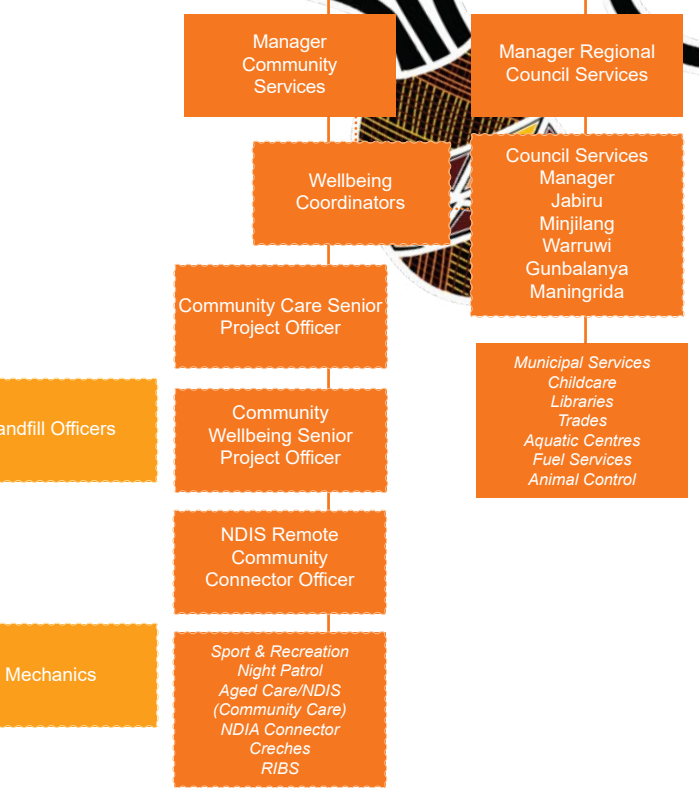
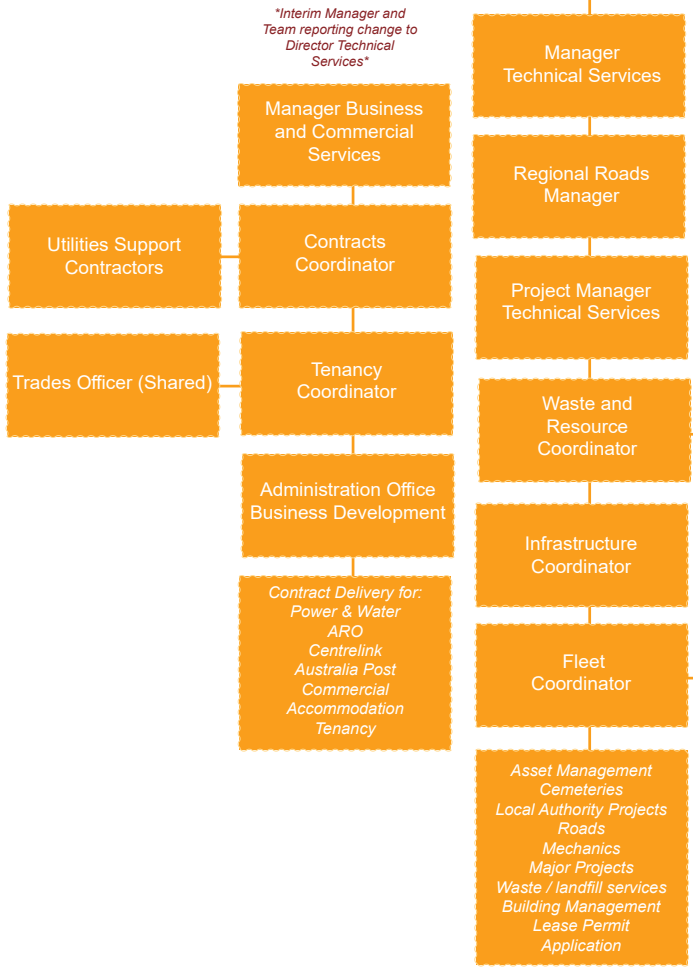
Interim Shared Executive Assistant to the Directors

**Director Technical Services**

Interim Shared Executive Assistant to the Directors

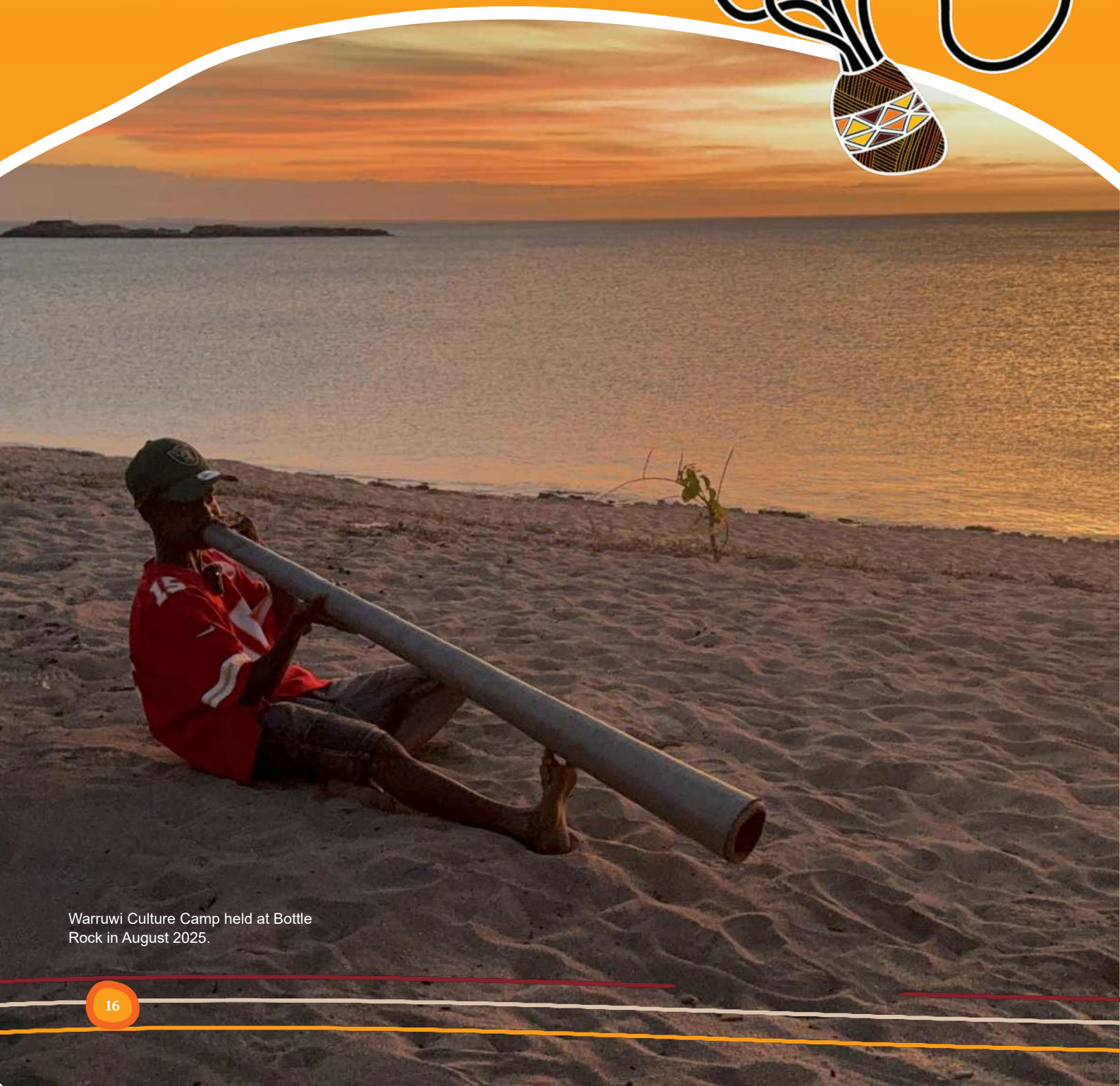
**Director Community & Council Services**

*\*Interim Manager and Team reporting change to Director Technical Services\**





# Strategic Plan



Warruwi Culture Camp held at Bottle Rock in August 2025.



# The Strategic Plan Journey

West Arnhem Regional Council conducts an annual review of its Strategic Plan, which is delivered through six key Pillars within the Regional Plan:

- ▶ **Pillar 1:** Partnerships, Relationships, and Belonging
- ▶ **Pillar 2:** Increased Local Indigenous Employment
- ▶ **Pillar 3:** Safety and Wellbeing
- ▶ **Pillar 4:** Service Delivery and Built Environment
- ▶ **Pillar 5:** Sustainability and Climate Action
- ▶ **Pillar 6:** Foundations of Governance

These Pillars form the foundation of Council's strategic direction, guiding decision-making and actions to support community wellbeing, effective governance, and sustainable growth.

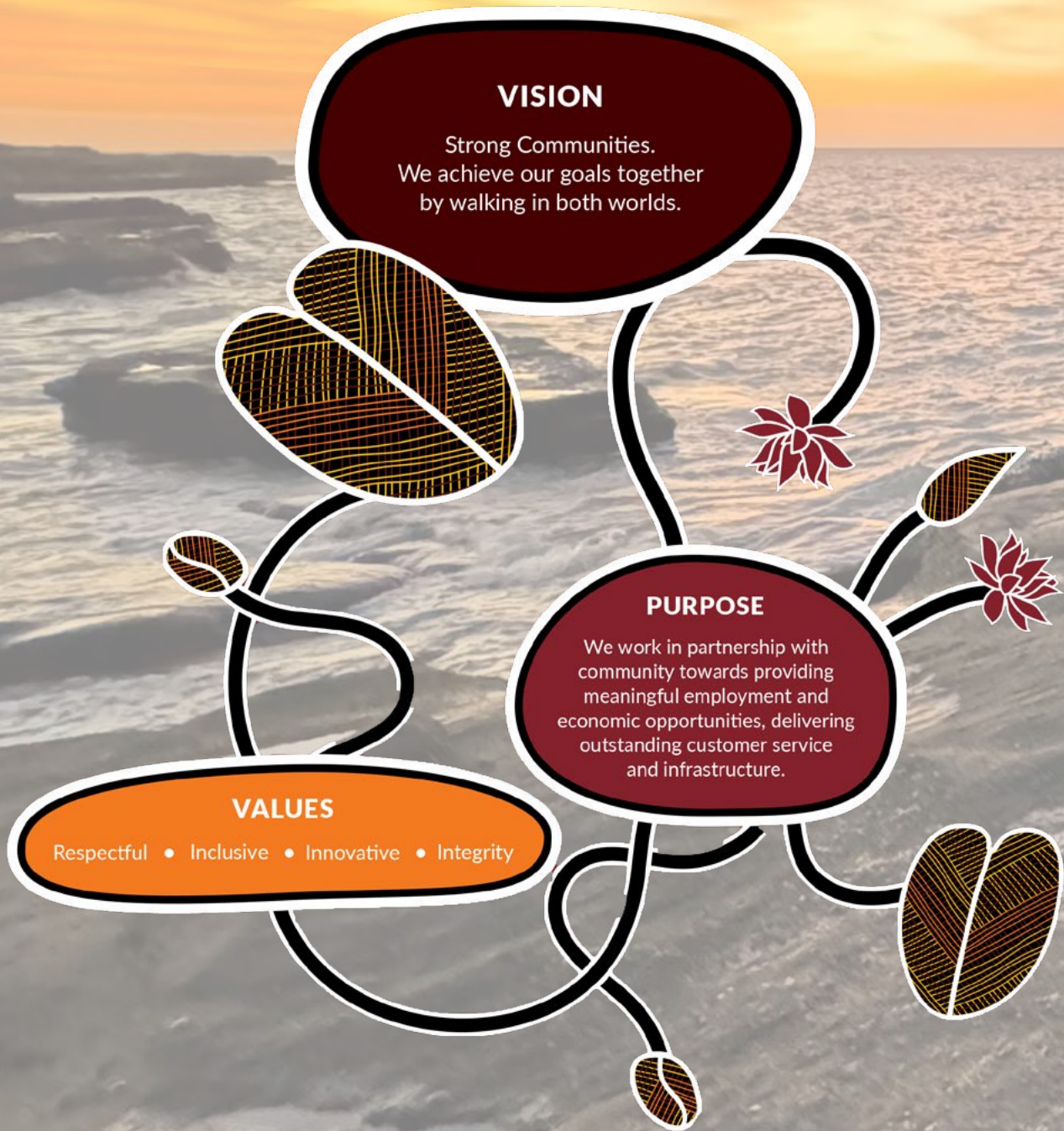
To ensure the Plan reflects current community priorities, Council undertakes annual consultation with Elected Members, Local Authorities, and the wider community to inform the development of the Plan and Budget.

## For the 2026–27 Regional Plan and Budget, this included:

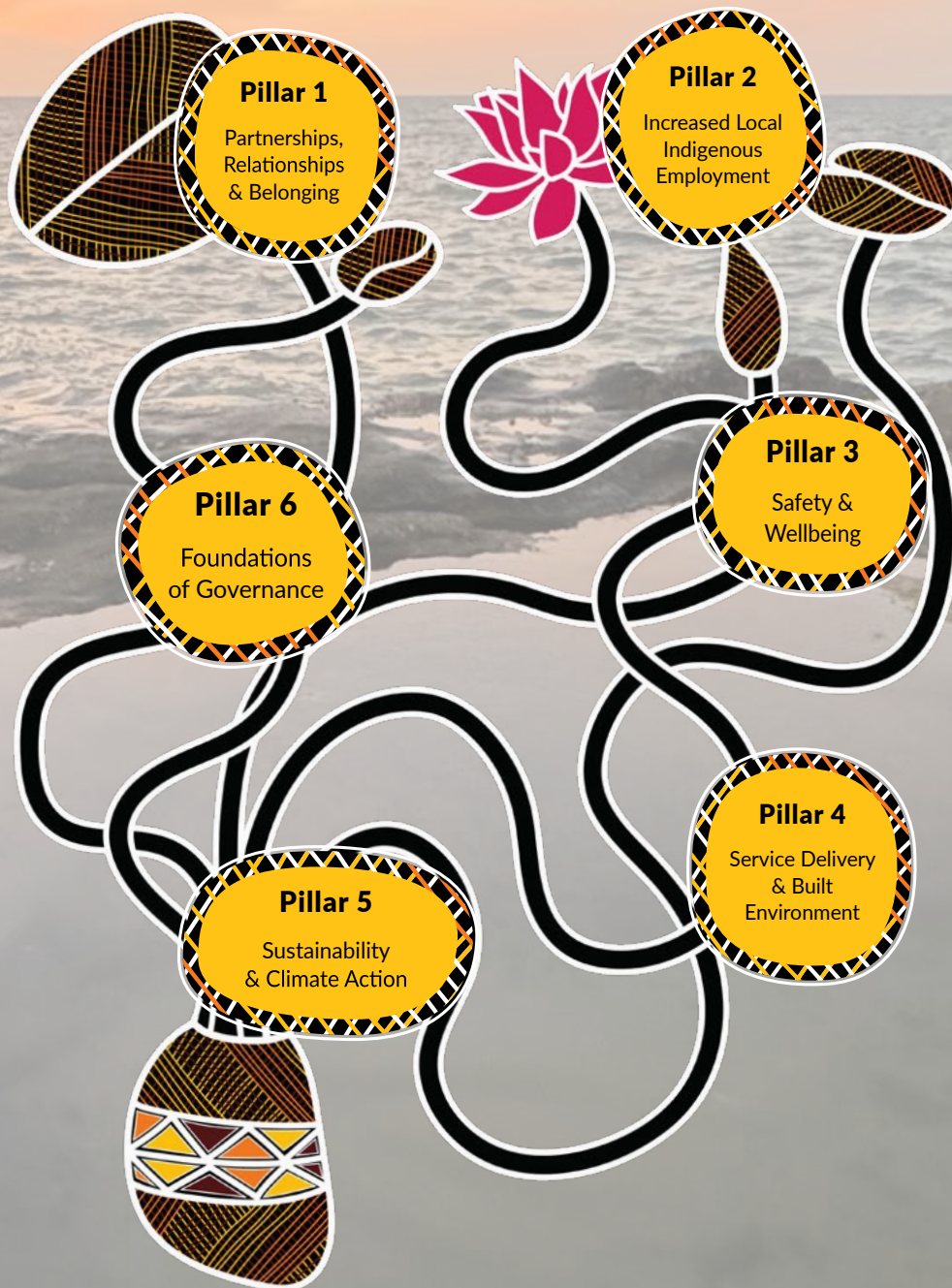
First draft Budget 2026-27 presented to Council for review	24 February 2026
First draft Budget 2026-27 presented to Local Authorities for review	2-6 March 2026
Initial planning meeting with Executive and Senior Management to update the 2026-27 Strategic Plan Pillars	10 March 2026
Extensive budget reviews with senior management and executive staff	April 2026
Extensive review of Strategic Plan Pillars with executive team	23 April 2026
Draft Regional Plan and Budget 2026-27 presented to Council for review and approval to consult with communities for 21 days	11 May 2026
Draft Regional Plan and Budget 2026-27 presented to Local Authorities	11-16 May 2026
Regional Plan and Budget 2026-27 approved by Council	17 June 2026



# Vision, Purpose and Values



# Strategic Pillars





# Service Delivery Plans

## Core Service Activities

West Arnhem Regional Council is committed to delivering high-quality core services that support our vision of Strong Communities. We work to ensure services are reliable, accessible and responsive to the needs of our communities.

Our focus is on strengthening community engagement, maintaining strong and transparent governance, and delivering excellence in local government administration. By working closely with our Local Authorities and communities, we ensure local voices help guide priorities and decision-making.

Council's day-to-day operations focus on providing essential civic services, supporting environmental health and wellbeing, and maintaining and improving local infrastructure across the region.

	GUNBALANYA	JABIRU	MANINGRIDA	MINJILANG	WARRUWI
<b>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</b>					
Public and corporate relations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Customer relationship management, including complaints and responses	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Governance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Advocacy and representation on local and regional issues	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION</b>					
Financial management	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Revenue growth	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Human resources, learning and development	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Records management	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Risk management	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Council planning and reporting: strategic, financial and service delivery planning and reporting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
IT and Communications	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>LOCAL CIVIC SERVICES</b>					
Library and cultural heritage service		✓			
<b>LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE</b>					
Asset management	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lighting for public safety	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Local road traffic management, maintenance, upgrading and construction	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maintenance and upgrade of parks, reserves and open spaces inc. weed control	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fleet, plant and equipment maintenance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maintenance and upgrade of buildings, facilities and fixed assets	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Swimming pools		✓	✓		
Management and administration of local laws		✓			
<b>LOCAL ENVIRONMENT HEALTH</b>					
Waste management	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Provision of sewer and water management		✓			
Provision of contract services for sewer and water management	✓		✓	✓	✓
Animal management program	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Commercial Service Activities

West Arnhem Regional Council delivers a range of commercial activities and services across the region, providing essential resources to communities while creating local employment opportunities. Revenue generated through these activities provides an important supplementary income stream that helps Council strengthen service delivery and support community priorities. Through these initiatives, Council contributes to local economic activity while supporting sustainable growth and long-term benefits for communities across the West Arnhem region.

	GUNBALANYA	JABIRU	MANINGRIDA	MINJILANG	WARRUWI
Long Day Care Service		✓			
Centrelink Agent Services	✓	✓		✓	✓
Airstrip Maintenance Contract	✓		✓	✓	✓
Power, Water and Sewerage Systems Contract	✓		✓	✓	✓
Post Office Agreement	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Manage Visitor Accommodation	✓		✓	✓	✓



Our team in Warruwi undertaking a Chainsaw and Small Equipment Maintenance course in December 2025.

## Community Wellbeing Service Activities

West Arnhem Regional Council delivers a range of commercial activities and services across the region, providing essential resources to communities while creating local employment opportunities. Revenue generated through these activities provides an important supplementary income stream that helps Council strengthen service delivery and support community priorities. Through these initiatives, Council contributes to local economic activity while supporting sustainable growth and long-term benefits for communities across the West Arnhem region.

	GUNBALANYA	JABIRU	MANINGRIDA	MINJILANG	WARRUWI
<b>AGED AND COMMUNITY CARE</b>					
Support at Home Program	✓	✓		✓	✓
Commonwealth Home Support Programme	✓	✓		✓	✓
Indigenous Aged Care Employment Program	✓	✓		✓	✓
National Disability Insurance Scheme	✓	✓		✓	✓
<b>CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES</b>					
Remote Sport Programme	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Warruwi and Minjilang Crèche				✓	✓
Outside School Hours Care					✓
Sport and Recreation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY AND SUPPORT</b>					
Community Night Patrols	✓			✓	✓
<b>CULTURE AND HERITAGE</b>					
Deliver Indigenous Broadcasting Programme	✓		✓	✓	✓



The Warruwi Storm men's basketball team taking to the court at the Kurrung Sports Carnival in September 2025.



# Major Community Projects

West Arnhem Regional Council will deliver a range of community led infrastructure projects across the region in 2026-27, in line with the objectives of this Regional Plan and Budget. Many of these projects, funded through Local Authorities and other external programs, represent significant capital investment that improves local infrastructure and supports community wellbeing.

These projects will continue to progress and, in some cases, reach completion over the 2026-27 financial year as this Regional Plan is implemented.

## Local Authority Funded Projects

GUNBALANYA	MANINGRIDA	MINJILANG	WARRUWI
Project	Project	Project	Project
Install flag poles at Council Office	Installation of chilled water bubbler at Basketball Court	Install flag poles at the Council Office	Install flag poles at the Council Office
Refurbishment and rebuild two Community Shelters at Banyan/Arrkuluk	Fabrication Variation, Raise Height of Airport Shelter - cultural entrance/exit	WiFi for public use at the rear of the Minjilang Office/ Recreation Hall	Beautification of Warruwi - Park Setting for the 'Lookout'
Provide ablution facilities at the Billabong	Vet Program - Animal Management	Vet Program - Animal Management	2026 Culture Camp
Vet Program - Animal Management			Vet Program - Animal Management

## Other Council Projects

GUNBALANYA	JABIRU	MANINGRIDA	MINJILANG
Project	Project	Project	Project
Flood Insurance Toad Hall, Laundry & damaged house	Jabiru Town Square Revitalisation  Dog Park & Playground - Lakeside Park. Outdoor Gym - Brockman Oval  Town Square Public Toilet Upgrades  Brockman Oval Public Toilet Upgrade  Wayfinding Sign Upgrades	Maningrida Toilets upgrade near office	New Minjilang Cemetery



# Strategic Pillars Plan

West Arnhem Regional Council has developed the following Strategic Plan Pillars in accordance with the *Local Government Act*. The Plan provides a clear framework to guide Council's priorities, decision-making and actions, ensuring meaningful outcomes for communities across the region.

These Pillars reflect the priorities, interests, needs and aspirations of our communities and will inform Council's approach to service delivery and long-term planning.

## The Strategic Plan sets out the Council's six main pillars:



### **Pillar 1 - Partnerships, Relationships and Belonging**

- 1.1 Community Engagement
- 1.2 Economic Partnerships
- 1.3 Communication
- 1.4 Community Events
- 1.5 Cultural Training
- 1.6 Youth Engagement



### **Pillar 2 - Increased Local Indigenous Employment**

- 2.1 Indigenous Employment Framework
- 2.2 Traineeships and Apprenticeships
- 2.3 Policy and Procedures



### **Pillar 3 - Safety and Wellbeing**

- 3.1 Cultural Safety
- 3.2 Health and Safety
- 3.3 Learning and Development
- 3.4 Community Service Delivery



### **Pillar 4 - Service Delivery and Built Environment**

- 4.1 Strategic Infrastructure and Asset Management
- 4.2 Waste and Water Management
- 4.3 Local Road Management and Maintenance



### **Pillar 5 - Sustainability and Climate Action**

- 5.1 Recycling and Waste
- 5.2 Education
- 5.3 Policy



### **Pillar 6 - Foundations of Governance**

- 6.1 Financial Management
- 6.2 Records
- 6.3 Council and Local Authorities
- 6.4 Risk Management
- 6.5 Planning and Reporting
- 6.6 Information and Communication Technology

## Pillar 1: Partnerships, Relationships and Belonging

Investing in relationships and partnerships at all levels supports and strengthens community and belonging.

We prioritise the value of partnerships and relationships as a key determinant of a happy, strong and thriving community.



Cr Mickitja Onus with CareFlight General Manager Arani Duggan at the Kakadu Triathlon in May 2025. The event raised \$16,400 for CareFlight Top End.

Goal	Strategy	Measure	Target
<b>1.1 Community Engagement</b>  Seek out and support diverse perspectives and collaborations with community, community leaders, businesses, agencies and local service providers to enhance community life	Engage with Traditional Owners to assist local cultural events with road closures, facilities hire and/or use, provide signage and general support	In-kind support as available to assist with cultural events	Ongoing
	Attend and contribute to heads of agencies meetings	Heads of agencies meetings attended and information shared locally with teams and across the organisation	As required
	Develop and deliver well-planned, community-led sport, recreational and cultural programs within the region	Programs and initiatives are informed by the expressed needs and voices of the local people they serve and the staff who deliver them	Ongoing
	Actively seek out and develop collaborative partnerships that encourage service coordination and integration	Community meetings coordinated, informed and participated in	Ongoing

Goal	Strategy	Measure	Target
<b>1.2 Economic Partnerships</b>  Secure increased income opportunities (grants and commercial) that create employment and/or improve community life	Develop a Commercial Business Development Plan	Review existing Business Development Strategy  a. Annual review of Commercial contractual obligations  b. Annual review of commercial contracts to ensure contracts remain viable for Council  c. Identify and pursue opportunities for further partnerships, income and growth	December 2026
	Manage Council staff and commercial/visitor housing portfolio	a. Compliance with Residential Tenancy Act and Council policies  b. Completion of scheduled/ compliance-based maintenance  c. Annual audit of furnishings and/or required replacements  d. Annual audit of housing requirements – in all communities  e. Annual review of housing contractors to ensure compliance and cost viability comparisons	Ongoing

Goal	Strategy	Measure	Target
<b>1.3 Communication</b>  Deliver dynamic communication which is culturally informed and appropriate, engaging and relevant to the interests of Council	Develop and manage Council's social media and communication channels, including the website	Minimum social media targets are met: Instagram – minimum 2 posts per month Facebook – minimum 3 posts per month LinkedIn – minimum 2 posts per month	100%
		Implement social media strategy	December 2026
	Publish <i>The Wire</i> once a fortnight	Community contribution of articles and/or photos to each edition	4
	Publish a community events and Council's schedule of meetings on the website	Website current and up-to-date community events and Council's schedule of meetings displayed	100%
	Foster an organisational culture of innovation in communication which engages staff and enhances internal communication	Staff newsletter <i>In the Loop</i> published monthly	12 per annum
		All internal requests for Council branded communication materials including calendars, posters, digital displays and social media posts are facilitated and delivered by Council Communications and Public Relations Coordinator	100%
Work with stakeholders to foster positive relationships and build effective networks locally, across the region and nationally	Stakeholder news shared through social media and communication channels on behalf of stakeholders as per request	85%	

Goal	Strategy	Measure	Target
<b>1.4 Community Events</b>  Deliver cultural, civic and sporting events which engage and unite the community	Conduct civic events which recognise and celebrate community sentiment	Civic events held in each community hosted by Council	4 per annum
	Provide support to community organisations to deliver community-based events	In-kind support provided to community groups on request	As per budget



Goal	Strategy	Measure	Target
<b>1.5 Cultural Training</b>  Develop increased understanding and observation of cultural protocols	Review and expand culture program	Identify and review current framework for appropriateness and identify opportunities for improvement and expansion	Ongoing
		Develop appropriate learning activities to reach all staff, contractors, consultants and volunteers	June 2027
		All new employees completed cultural training during probation	Ongoing

Goal	Strategy	Measure	Target
<b>1.6 Youth Engagement</b>  Deliver diverse, targeted programs and events which actively empower and engage young people as valuable partners in decision-making which affects them	Design and deliver youth engagement programs in consultation with youth and community stakeholders	Youth and community consultations informed by program design and activity work plans	Ongoing
	Deliver regional planning activities with Sport and Recreation and Community Services teams and schools	Sport and Recreation and Community Services delivery well-planned, with programs reflecting the expressed needs of the community and Council's regional goals designed	Ongoing
	Plan and deliver diverse and engaging holiday programs that meet the needs and interests of all children/young people and which run for a longer period each day	Holiday programs delivered and attendance is increased in each community throughout the school holiday period, with the introduction of grant funded programs	Uplift 10%
	Promote, celebrate and report on activities and events in publications such as <i>The Wire</i> and social media	Photos and/or stories for publication in <i>The Wire</i> and social media provided by Sport and Recreation and Community Services teams	Minimum 2 per month





The Minjilang Eagles winning the women's basketball competition at the 2025 Kurrung Sports Carnival.

## Pillar 2: Increased Local Indigenous Employment

We are committed to investing in and supporting local Indigenous employment.

We recognise the instrumental value that Indigenous staff bring to our organisation and the social force that occurs with employment opportunities.



The Warruwi Night Patrol team.

Goal	Strategy	Measure	Target
<b>2.1 Indigenous Employment Framework</b>  Create Council Indigenous employment framework including tailored pathways to employment	Develop a Council First Nations Employment Plan	Launch the First Nations Employment Plan	December 2026
	Seek funding to support Council's First Nations Employment Plan	Funding opportunities identified and funds applied for	Ongoing
	Undertake a skills gap and training needs analysis	Results of skills and training gap analysis used to identify training needs for mandatory compliance	Ongoing

Goal	Strategy	Measure	Target
<b>2.2 Traineeships and Apprenticeships</b>  Provide local residents opportunities to learn and obtain professional qualifications	Create a learning pathway and training into traineeships	Implemented training activities relevant to work groups	Ongoing

Goal	Strategy	Measure	Target
<b>2.3 Policy and Procedures</b>  Research, review and develop policy to underpin and inform Council's intent and strategy to increase local Indigenous employment	Review Council recruitment processes, partnerships and systems for local people	Recruitment process recommendations implemented	Ongoing



## Pillar 3: Safety and Wellbeing

As an 'Employer of Choice', we provide and promote a positive culture of safety, inclusion and respect. Our people are skilled, informed and have opportunities to grow and develop within our organisation.

Services provided to community are professional, impactful, engaging and appropriate to local needs.



Work Health and Safety training with childcare educators in January 2026.

Goal	Strategy	Measure	Target
<b>3.1 Cultural Safety</b> Delivery of actions in the Council 'Innovate' Reconciliation Action Plan	Establish direction from Council to progress 'Innovate' Reconciliation Action Plan	Feedback is obtained from Council	November 2026

Goal	Strategy	Measure	Target
<b>3.2 Health and Safety</b> Staff and public safety is achieved via planning, education and training	Review and improve the safety management system to streamline Work Health and Safety (WHS) related administration processes	Implemented safety management system	June 2027
	Improve WHS culture and education that meets staff and organisational needs	WHS educational programs delivered	Ongoing
	Support the wellbeing of employees	Culturally appropriate wellness programs, support embedded into Human Resources practices, external mental health support, and wellbeing activities provided	Ongoing
	Review policies and procedures in accordance with statutory requirements	Policies and procedures continue to be reviewed in accordance with the required timelines	Ongoing



Goal	Strategy	Measure	Target
<b>3.3 Learning and Development</b>  Deliver training and development which is effective, culturally appropriate, engaging and increases future employment opportunities and pathways	Establish a Council Learning and Development Framework	Learning and Development Framework draft created	December 2026
	Implement and continuously improve Council's performance framework, including probation and on-boarding program	Review and improve Council's induction and on-boarding program	June 2027
		Probation/annual goal and development planning with Line Manager undertaken	100%
		Performance reviews tracked and monitored by Human Resources team and completed on time by Line Managers	90%
	Foster a positive workplace culture through engagement initiatives	Improved recruitment, onboarding, training, support and engagement	Ongoing

Goal	Strategy	Measure	Target	
<b>3.4 Community Service Delivery</b>  Provision of high quality, culturally informed programs that support and enhance the safety and wellbeing of community members	Programs and services are well planned with activities and expected outcomes identified prior to delivery commencing	Activity plans are developed in consultation with local teams for each service and initiative	100%	
	High quality care is provided to all recipients of community services delivered by Council	All staff are provided with opportunities to upskill via access to professional development relevant to their roles and responsibilities	Ongoing	
		Service delivery is compliant with the expectations of funders and relevant legislation	Report providing recommendations on service quality and compliance improvement opportunities reviewed and delivered	100% as required
			All activities, reports and compliance tasks completed as per contractual arrangement and industry standards	100%
		Timely data/monitoring returns and funding reports delivered	100%	
	Remote Indigenous Broadcasting Services supporting local Indigenous languages are provided across the region	Broadcasters are offered support and ongoing training opportunities delivered through Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association (TEABBA)	100% of provided training completed	
	Provide to the community well-managed and maintained library collections, including a culturally relevant library collection	Diversity audit completed and recommendations implemented	December 2026	



Maningrida works crew Chainsaw and Small Equipment Maintenance course in December 2025.

## Pillar 4: Service Delivery and Built Environment

We provide high quality infrastructure and service delivery that meets the unique needs of each community, creates a sense of place and contributes towards promoting a sense of pride in community.



New flood lights installed at the Jabiru Pool facility in October 2025.

Goal	Strategy	Measure	Target
<b>4.1 Strategic Infrastructure and Asset Management</b>  Strategically manage, maintain and enhance community infrastructure	Develop and manage a comprehensive Asset Management Plan	Comprehensive Asset Management Plan completed	June 2027
	Continue community consultations on the establishment of gazetted cemetery for Gunbalanya	Community consultations on the establishment of gazetted cemetery for Gunbalanya	December 2026
	Ensure community swimming pools operate according to community needs and all legislative and work health and safety requirements	Annually review opening hours to meet community needs	100%
		Staff employed to meet supervision ratios and advised cultural needs	100%
	Operational procedures are adhered to and reviewed as required	100%	

Goal	Strategy	Measure	Target
<b>4.2 Waste and Water Management</b>  Deliver environmentally and economically sound solid waste, water and sewerage services	Provide appropriate domestic waste collection in each community	Suitable waste collection is provided	Ongoing
	Work with other government and commercial entities in order to plan for long term waste disposal needs	Northern Territory Local Government Association liaised and collaborated with on advocacy initiatives and waste strategies	Ongoing
		Engage with Product Stewardship Schemes to facilitate access to national resource recovery schemes	
		Engage with Waste and Recycling Industry NT (WRI NT) to provide access to a range of resource recovery opportunities	
Adhere to water and sewerage operations and maintenance schedules for Jabiru	Exceed legislated standards for potable water testing	100% fortnightly testing	

Goal	Strategy	Measure	Target
<b>4.3 Local Road Management and Maintenance</b>  Tactically monitor, maintain and manage Council gazetted roads and community safety via traffic management	Develop and schedule yearly road, footpath and stormwater repairs and maintenance programs for each community which: a. determines a road maintenance schedule for the course of the year b. determines grading frequency of internal access roads c. schedules hazard identification and road condition reports (actions and frequency) d. schedules footpath and stormwater inspections	Deliver yearly road, footpath and stormwater repairs and maintenance delivered as per schedule with records maintained for each community in Council's records management system - currently 'Magiq'	Ongoing
		Develop and implement roads reseal plan	December 2026
	Continually monitor and carry out minor road repairs	Roads monitored and minor repairs completed as required	Ongoing

## Pillar 5: Sustainability and Climate Action

Leading by example, we commit to developing a culture of sustainable practice.

We recognise and champion the importance of safe guarding our environment for future generations by working collectively with community, private enterprises and all tiers of government.



Our crew carrying out road works on Minjilang Airport Road.

Goal	Strategy	Measure	Target
<b>5.1 Recycling and Waste</b>  Develop recycling and waste initiatives which protect and preserve community natural resources and the local environment	Annual review of the <u>Reduce, Reuse Recycle 2024-2034 Strategy</u>	Review completed	June 2027
	Continue pre-cyclone community waste collections	Pre-cyclone waste collections held twice yearly as per published schedule	100%
	Implement better practice at established landfill sites	Improved compliance with environmental legislation	Ongoing
	Engage with community to raise awareness of responsible waste management	Keep Australia Beautiful and local schools collaborated with and Clean up Australia Day, Tidy Towns campaign and eco schools program participated in  Reduced incidents of burning of waste materials  Improved usage of sorting bays	Ongoing

Goal	Strategy	Measure	Target
<b>5.2 Education</b>  Develop and deliver locally relevant education initiatives on sustainability and climate impacts across multiple mediums and platforms	Engage with local schools to develop age and locally appropriate educational resources. Facilitate relationships between businesses, community leaders and youth with a focus on conserving natural resources	Keep Australia Beautiful and local schools collaborated with and Clean up Australia Day, Tidy Towns campaign and eco schools program participated in	Ongoing
		Education campaign collateral created and displayed in community and schools	
		Community-appropriate collaborative materials, initiatives and messages developed and promoted via community noticeboards and social media	

Goal	Strategy	Measure	Target
<b>5.3 Policy</b>  Devise and implement a Sustainability and Climate Action Policy	Research and develop Council Environment and Sustainability Management Strategy and Policy	Environment and Sustainability Management Strategy and Policy completed	June 2027

## Pillar 6: Foundations of Governance

Integrity is at the heart of everything we do. We are leaders of best practice and excellence in governance, advocacy, consultation and administration.

Our processes, procedures and policies are ethical and transparent.



CEO Katharine Murray, Minister Steven Edgington MLA, Mayor James Woods and Utilities Support Contract Operator Sid Mitchell in Maningrida.

Goal	Strategy	Measure	Target
<b>6.1 Financial Management</b> Provision of strong financial management and leadership which ensures long term sustainability and growth	Develop and implement a financially sustainable practices	Practices reviewed, improved and implemented	100%
	Manage Council-funded projects to maintain a positive working capital ratio	Positive working capital ratio	Minimum ratio 1:1

Goal	Strategy	Measure	Target
<b>6.2 Records</b> Delivery of information management processes which support efficient and transparent administration	Maintain records management system which includes archiving	Maintaining the system and archiving records	100%

Goal	Strategy	Measure	Target
<b>6.3 Council and Local Authorities</b> Excellence in governance, consultation administration and representation	Ensure capacity for customer relationship management, including mechanisms for feedback on service delivery	Complaints and positive feedback reported to the administration, acknowledge and addressed as required	Ongoing
	Enable community members to participate in local decision-making by ensuring that information is available to access the Council meetings	Community Rooms made available for public to view meetings	100%
		Publish meeting dates, times and venue on community notice boards for public to attend and watch within community	
	Establish formal and informal mechanisms for community consultation on key issues and input into decision-making	Community consultation on strategic plan	October 2026
	Create opportunities for Councillors and senior staff to be available to community members to discuss Council decisions, programs and projects, either informally or through community meetings	Local Authority Meetings attended by at least one relevant Councillor and at least one Senior Manager	100%
	Ensure advocacy and representation of Council interests through government, the private sector and the media	Advocacy framework, strategy and communication plan developed	February 2027
	Create an advocacy framework, strategy and communication plan in consultation with Councillors		

Goal	Strategy	Measure	Target
<b>6.4 Risk Management</b> The monitoring and minimisation of risks associated with the operations of Council	Facilitate the Risk Management and Audit Committee meetings	Quarterly meetings held	100%
	Review insurance covers to get the best economic coverage	Annual insurance renewals met	100%

Goal	Strategy	Measure	Target
<b>6.5 Planning and Reporting</b> Robust planning and reporting that supports Council's decision-making processes	Produce Regional Plans that have been consulted and Annual Reports which show Council achievements	Regional Plan and Annual Report delivered on time and to the standards set	100%

Goal	Strategy	Measure	Target
<b>6.6 Information and Communication Technology (ICT)</b> Effective and innovative information technology solutions which maximise service delivery and support Council's operations	Plan and deliver the best available ICT for Council staff to use	Maintain ICT Strategic Plan	Ongoing





CEO Katharine Murray and Mayor James Woods meeting with Marion Scrymgour MP in Maningrida.

# Framework and Assessments



Elected Member mandatory training with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development in February 2026.

# Assessment of Administrative and Regulatory Frameworks



West Arnhem Regional Council continues to monitor legislative changes to ensure ongoing compliance. Ordinary Council Meetings are held every month, alternating between in person and video conferencing with the exception of August and December where a Finance Committee Meeting is held.

Kakadu Ward Advisory and Risk Management and Audit Committees are held four times a year as per the Terms of Reference.

Legislative reporting and administration support are provided to the Local Authorities meetings as per the *Local Government Act* (NT) Guidelines. Meetings are scheduled four times a year.

All meeting proceedings are in accordance and compliant with Local Government legislation.

Elected Members and Local Authority Members are paid in accordance with the Northern Territory of Australia Remuneration Tribunal Determinations.

Council policies are reviewed regularly as part of normal business practice and in line with legislation.

West Arnhem Regional Council (Jabiru Town) By-laws were introduced in 2024. Further community by-laws are being investigated.

The Local Government Association of the Northern Territory represents Councils in relation to legislative changes, ensuring they are kept regularly informed of progress.

Council has participated in the mandated compliance review conducted by the Local Government Unit of the Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development with inspectors reviewing records relating to governance and policies, human resources and finance management. Results of the compliance review are reported to Council.

A Financial Audit Strategy is in place each year with an independent and reputable organisation compliant with the Australian Auditing Standards, Australian Accounting Standards and local government legislation.



Minister Steve Edgington MLA attending the Maningrida Local Authority Meeting in March 2026.



# Cooperative Arrangements

Council has several cooperative arrangements designed to improve service delivery, and facilitate engagement with government agencies and the private sector in the development of the West Arnhem region. Over the next financial year, Council will continue to deliver services through partnerships that it has formed with various organisations.

## 2026-27 Cooperative Arrangements:

- ▶ The delivery of post office services in Jabiru, Maningrida, Warruwi, Minjilang and Gunbalanya as per agreements with Australia Post.
- ▶ The delivery of Support at Home and Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) that enable clients, within the aged care sector, to live in their own homes.
- ▶ The delivery of disability support services as a registered National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) provider.
- ▶ The provision of Centrelink services in Gunbalanya, Jabiru, Minjilang and Warruwi as per an agreement with Services Australia.
- ▶ An agreement with Power and Water Corporation to maintain power, water and sewerage systems contracts in Gunbalanya, Maningrida, Minjilang and Warruwi.
- ▶ An agreement with the Melbourne Veterinary School to provide animal management services in Gunbalanya, Jabiru, Maningrida, Minjilang and Warruwi.
- ▶ The maintenance of airstrip services contracts in Gunbalanya, Maningrida, Warruwi and Minjilang as per an agreement with the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure (DLI).
- ▶ Collaborations with education institutions such as Charles Darwin University to facilitate the delivery of accredited courses to Council staff.
- ▶ Various agreements with the Australian Government to improve the wellbeing of communities.
- ▶ Various agreements and collaborations with the Northern Territory Government to facilitate local decision-making and deliver Elected Members training.
- ▶ Attendance and participation of Elected Members and Council staff in the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT).
- ▶ Working together with the Northern Land Council (NLC), an independent statutory authority of the Commonwealth that assists Aboriginal peoples in the Top End of the Northern Territory to acquire and manage their traditional lands and seas.



# Opportunities and Challenges

West Arnhem Regional Council has identified a range of key opportunities and challenges as it continues to strengthen service delivery across the region. These considerations are central to shaping Council's strategic direction, helping to ensure services are responsive, efficient, and aligned with the needs and priorities of our communities.

## Opportunities

- ▶ Work with stakeholders in the private and public sectors to promote West Arnhem as a destination for ecotourism and Indigenous tourism.
- ▶ Continue to strengthen partnerships for a sustainable future whereby, Council, communities in the region and stakeholders work together to manage and protect the environment.
- ▶ Supporting the diversification of income earning opportunities for residents in the region.
- ▶ Advocate for greater investment in infrastructure in the region including reliable digital infrastructure and connectivity, all weather roads and habitable housing.
- ▶ Continue to engage with West Arnhem communities by providing opportunities for community members to participate in decision-making, and contribute to the development of Council's strategies, development plans and policies.
- ▶ Provide ongoing mentoring and training opportunities for Council staff working in all communities in the region.

## Challenges

- ▶ Insufficient infrastructure such as all-weather roads and reliable telecommunication services that impede service delivery.
- ▶ The negative impact of climate change including unpredictable and decreased rainfall patterns as well as rising temperatures, and the impact that this has on infrastructure and liveability in remote communities.
- ▶ Limitations on traditional funding sources despite increasing needs in communities.

# 2026-27 Budget



Staff in Gunbalanya participating in a 4WD driving course in March 2026.



# Budget Discussion

West Arnhem Regional Council proposes to adopt its budget for the 2026-27 year consistent with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2019*. The following information is provided in accordance with these listed requirements.

The 2026-27 budget contains:

**a) An outline of the:**

**i. Council’s objectives for the relevant financial year; and**

The objectives for the 2026-27 year are to deliver services and programs as outlined in this Regional Plan. The primary focus of the Council is to deliver Services such as providing an administration centre in each community, undertaking maintenance on council roads and parks, and the collection of residential rubbish. The Regional Plan also commits to the delivery of social programs, from Aged Care to Sports and Recreation programs, as well as commercial services.

**ii. Measures the Council proposes to take, during the financial year, to achieve Council’s objectives; and**

The principal measure the Council will be taking in 2026-27 will be to monitor and control operating costs to ensure the Council remains financially viable and to build the quality of Council’s plant and equipment fleet to better deliver services to Council’s communities. To achieve this the Council will:

- Continue to dispose plant and equipment that is unreliable, expensive to maintain and beyond its useful life in favour of new, more reliable and economical to operate assets.
- Assess, monitor and manage program funding and supply agreements to deal with challenging inflationary and economic conditions impacting Council’s finances.
- Endeavour to provide services to the region within Council’s financial capacity by matching expenditure to income streams.
- Continue to review and manage all sections of Council operations, including Core, Commercial and Community Services with the understanding that:
  - o Community Service programs are fully funded by each

program’s funding; and

- o Commercial Service activities are contributing to the operating costs of the Council.

In Council’s review of the net benefit of each Commercial and Community Services activity to Council’s communities, an assessment of the net income the Council receives, as a result of that work, is to be considered to ensure funding is sufficient to deliver the program to match expectations and required deliverables.

The Core Services activities are listed within the Regional Plan’s Pillars with defined expectations of the activity’s outputs/actions.

**iii. Indicators the Council intends to use as a means of assessing its efficiency in achieving its objectives.**

The 2026-27 Service Delivery Pillars list the indicators/ measures the Council intends to use to assess the quality and/or effectiveness of the planned outputs/actions.

**b) Estimates of revenue and expenditure for the financial year (differentiating between operating and capital expenditure); and**

The attached 2026-27 budget lists the revenue and expenditure expected. In addition, a copy of Council’s 2026-27 Schedule of Fees and Charges has been included in the Regional Plan. Of Council’s fees and charges, the largest charge comes from the sale of water in Jabiru which is expected to be \$1.57 million followed by Jabiru sewerage of \$750,000.

**c) The amount to be allocated to the development and maintenance of each class of infrastructure for the financial year: and**

The below table lists the categories and amounts budgeted to be spent on Council’s infrastructure in 2026-27 (this does not include Fleet or Plant and Equipment expenditure):

Category	Operating Expenditure \$	Capital Expenditure \$
Install and maintain streetlights	213,183	-
Maintain and construct council-controlled buildings and land	770,026	1,196,560
Manage and maintain cemeteries	56,297	-
Waste management	1,025,668	-
Operate and maintain swimming pools	743,953	-
Municipal services	1,934,896	-
Maintain staff housing	1,023,683	-

**d) The amount the Council proposes to raise by way of rates, and sets out the rates structure, for the financial year; and**

The 2026-27 Rates and Charges to be levied as follow:

<b>Rate or Charge</b>	<b>Application</b>	<b>Detail of the Rate or Charge</b>	<b>Total Expected to be Raised</b>
General Rate	Single Residential - Jabiru	4.109 cents per dollar or minimum charge of \$1,211.00	
General Rate	Residential - ALRA	2.554 cents per dollar or minimum charge of \$1,211.00	
General Rate	Multiple Residential - Jabiru	8.119 cents per dollar or minimum charge of \$1,555.00	
General Rate	Commercial - Jabiru	13.123 cents per dollar or minimum charge of \$1,950.00	\$2,975,722
General Rate	Commercial - ALRA	3.678 cents per dollar or minimum charge of \$1,998.00	
General Rate	Commercial - Remote	1.232 cents per dollar or minimum charge of \$1,998.00	
Special Rate	Animal Management	\$172.00 per residential lot	\$193,328
Special Rate	Public Lighting	\$94.00 per residential and commercial lot	\$112,706
Charge - Garbage	Residential - Gunbalanya and Maningrida	\$780.00 x 2 collections	
Charge – Garbage	Residential - Jabiru	\$897.00	
Charge – Garbage	Residential - Minjilang and Warruwi	\$1,311.00	\$1,673,638
Charge – Garbage	Commercial	\$1,554.00	
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$4,955,394</b>

**e) An assessment of the social and economic effects of its rating policies; and**

Though the Council is heavily reliant on operating grants from the Northern Territory and Australian Governments the Council does have some ability to raise own-source revenue through the raising of rates and charges. In recent years the single largest ratepayer has been the NT Government (at approximately 80% of Council's rates revenue).

With changes to ERA's operation (moving from mining to rehabilitation phase) there has been a reduction of the number of rateable properties in Jabiru. From 1 July 2021, the Jabiru Town Development Authority (JTDA) leases were replaced with sub leases with Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation Jabiru Town (GACJT) and some old Jabiru housing stock were demolished. However, some new rateable housing has since been built in the communities like Maningrida and Warruwi which help offset the lost rateable

properties in Jabiru. Overall, no increase in the number of rateable properties in Council's local government area is budgeted for in 2026-27.

When looking at increasing own-source revenue through the raising of rates and charges the Council is very aware of the need to be mindful of the ratepayer's capacity to pay more. This is not the case for most municipal councils as they have many more individual ratepayers; ratepayers with higher capacity to pay; and growth opportunities on the number of rateable properties.

**f) The allowances for members of the Council for the financial year and the amount budgeted to cover payment of those allowances.**

The amounts included in the budgets are as per the NT Government Remuneration Tribunal's Determination relevant to the 2026-27 year and are list in the below table:

**a) Councillor Base and Electoral Allowances**

Allowance	Ordinary Council Member (Councillor)	Deputy Principal Member (Deputy Mayor)	Principal Member (Mayor)
Base Allowance	\$21,960	\$37,960	\$110,280

**b) Councillor Professional Development Allowances**

PD Allowance	\$7,500
--------------	---------

**c) Councillor Extra Meeting Allowance**

Extra Meeting / Activity Allowance of up to \$12,000 per financial year	Up to 2 hours = \$200 Between 2 and 4 hours = \$300 More than 4 hours = \$500	N/A
---	---	-----

**d) Local Authority Members**

Allowance	Ordinary Local Authority Member	Local Authority Chairman
Allowance per Meeting	Up to 2 hours = \$200 Between 2 and 4 hours = \$300 More than 4 hours = \$400	Up to 2 hours = \$300 Between 2 and 4 hours = \$450 More than 4 hours = \$600



# Long Term Financial Plan Discussion

## The budget developed for 2026-27 feeds into the Council's long-term financial plan.

The planning process is restricted by a number of unknowns regarding a range of commercial and community service-related activities and expenditure commitments agreed by former Council administration that are continuing to take time to rationalise.

Commercial and community service contracts represent a significant revenue stream for the Council in terms of charging management and administration fees. These fees assist in covering costs directly incurred in managing the associated activities and subsidise other core Council service costs that contribute to the delivery of these activities like human resources (HR) and work health and safety (WHS), finance, administration and infrastructure services. Commercial and community service activities are also expected to contribute to capital upgrades particularly Council's fleet and information communication technology (ICT).

The sustainability of the Council is dependent upon continuous long-term grant funding arrangements, that are increased in line with costs, with the Australian and Northern Territory Governments. The lack of certainty in grant funding and changes in existing commercial and agency contracts with both governments has the potential to disrupt the Council's capacity to deliver local government services to its communities.

## The budget and long-term financial plan key assumptions are:

- ▶ Grant-funded services (community services) have been considered only where experience shows the funding is recurrent or where funding for the next 4 financial years has been advised by the funding body. The estimated funding has been based on the prior agreement unless the actual amount is known.
- ▶ There will be no significant adverse changes in government policies impacting the operations of the Council.
- ▶ User fees and charges will generally increase by 3.2% (February 2026 CPI for Darwin)
- ▶ Overall inflationary increases of between 2% and 5% per annum have been applied (excluding employee expenses).
- ▶ Employee expenses have increased by 3% for 2026-27 and out-years by 2.5%. The Council's EBA will nominally expire 30 June 2027.
- ▶ The repairs, maintenance, management and development of infrastructure is intended to continue at the same level as detailed in the current year budget with inflationary increases of between 2% and 5%.
- ▶ Internal income and expenses allocations have been excluded.
- ▶ There is currently no indication of significant increases in funding and, as major initiatives are wholly dependent on additional funding, no major initiatives have been included in the plan. A review of the Council's strategic plan, including the six major pillars, began in late 2025-26 and will continue into 2026-27.





## Additional Funding Being Sought in 2026-27

The *Local Government Act 2019* requires the Council to adopt a balanced budget each year for the following financial year. The continuous underfunding of local governments Australia wide, particularly for regional councils where the ability to raise own source revenue is restricted, has meant some identified additional expenditure cannot be recognised and included in Council's 2026-27 budget in the first instance. Local government councils, like this Council, are finding increased operating cost are automatically absorbing any savings and CPI grant funding increases which is leaving little to no surplus to fund new identified expenditure needs.

Below is a conservative list of expenditure needs for 2026-27 which the Council will seek to fund either from external grant(s) or own source revenue, where available surplus funds are identified at the 2025-26 year end and after each half year budget review. Once a funding source is established the income and additional expenditure will be recorded in Council's budget for 2026-27 and if appropriate the outer years budgets.

Unbudgeted Expenditure Description	Amount \$	Total \$
Staff housing major refurbishment in Maningrida	170,000	
Fleet and plant replacement in Maningrida, Waruwi, Gunbalanya, Minjilang and Jabiru	300,000	
Animal management facilities in Jabiru	220,000	
Replace ICT switch equipment in each of Council's offices	250,000	
Jabiru water and sewerage infrastructure upgrades in accordance with a plan being developed **	-	
<b>Total Unbudgeted Expenditure Requiring Funds to Action in 2026-27</b>		<b>940,000</b>

\*\* Required funding not yet quantified.





# Budget and Long Term Financial Plan

	Draft Budget 2026-2027 \$	Draft Budget 2027-2028 \$	Draft Budget 2028-2029 \$	Draft Budget 2029-2030 \$
<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>				
Rates	3,281,756	3,511,479	3,757,282	4,020,292
Charges - Sewerage	750,797	803,353	859,587	919,759
Charges - Water	1,574,000	1,684,180	1,802,073	1,928,218
Charges - Waste	1,673,638	1,790,793	1,916,148	2,050,279
Fees and Charges	728,816	743,392	758,260	777,217
Operating Grants and Subsidies	15,062,800	15,062,800	15,062,800	15,062,800
Interest / Investment Income	170,000	174,250	177,735	182,178
Income allocation	5,861,568	5,978,799	6,098,375	6,250,834
Other income	93,509	95,379	97,287	99,719
Income Agency and Commercial Services	5,571,741	5,683,176	5,796,839	5,941,760
<b>TOTAL OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>34,768,625</b>	<b>35,527,601</b>	<b>36,326,387</b>	<b>37,233,056</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>				
Employee Expenses	19,189,241	19,668,972	20,160,696	20,664,713
Materials and Contracts	5,687,227	5,914,716	6,038,925	6,159,703
Elected Member Allowances	454,270	467,898	481,935	496,393
Elected Member Expenses	329,319	342,492	354,479	363,341
Council Committee Allowances	7,000	7,280	7,571	7,760
Local Authority Allowances	36,305	37,757	39,268	40,249
Council Committee & LA Expenses	33,858	35,212	36,621	37,536
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	5,271,438	5,271,438	5,271,438	5,271,438
Finance expenses	10,390	10,806	10,806	11,130
Travel, Freight and Accom Expenses	1,150,486	1,196,506	1,198,899	1,222,877
Fuel, utilities and communication	2,334,863	2,428,257	2,476,823	2,551,127
Other Expenses	5,181,666	5,378,705	5,480,195	5,636,850
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>39,686,063</b>	<b>40,760,038</b>	<b>41,557,654</b>	<b>42,463,119</b>
<b>BUDGETED OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(4,917,438)</b>	<b>(5,232,438)</b>	<b>(5,231,268)</b>	<b>(5,230,063)</b>

	Draft Budget 2026-2027 \$	Draft Budget 2027-2028 \$	Draft Budget 2028-2029 \$	Draft Budget 2029-2030 \$
<b>BUDGETED OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(4,917,438)</b>	<b>(5,232,438)</b>	<b>(5,231,268)</b>	<b>(5,230,063)</b>
<b>Remove NON-CASH ITEMS</b>				
Less Non-Cash Income	(5,861,568)	(5,978,799)	(6,098,375)	(6,250,834)
Add Back Non-Cash Expenses	11,133,006	11,250,237	11,369,813	11,522,272
<b>TOTAL NON-CASH ITEMS</b>	<b>5,271,438</b>	<b>5,271,438</b>	<b>5,271,438</b>	<b>5,271,438</b>
<b>Less ADDITIONAL OUTFLOWS</b>				
Capital Expenditure	(1,883,838)	(150,000)	(150,000)	(150,000)
Transfer to Reserves	(1,300,000)	(1,339,000)	(1,379,170)	(1,420,545)
Other Outflows	-	-	-	0
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL OUTFLOWS</b>	<b>(3,183,838)</b>	<b>(1,489,000)</b>	<b>(1,529,170)</b>	<b>(1,570,545)</b>
<b>Add ADDITIONAL INFLOWS</b>				
Proceeds from Sale of Assets	90,000	-	-	-
Capital Grants Income	-	-	-	-
Prior Year Carry Forward Tied Funding	1,209,838	-	-	-
Other Inflow of Funds	-	-	-	-
Transfers from Reserves	1,530,000	1,450,000	1,489,000	1,529,170
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL INFLOWS</b>	<b>2,829,838</b>	<b>1,450,000</b>	<b>1,489,000</b>	<b>1,529,170</b>
<b>NET BUDGETED OPERATING POSITION SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>



# Capital Expenditure and Funding

By class of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment.

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>Draft Budget 2026-2027 \$</b>	<b>Draft Budget 2027-2028 \$</b>	<b>Draft Budget 2028-2029 \$</b>	<b>Draft Budget 2029-2030 \$</b>
Buildings	-	-	-	-
Furniture, Fittings and Office Equipment	-	-	-	-
Infrastructure	1,196,560	-	-	-
Plant	-	-	-	-
Vehicles	687,278	150,000	150,000	150,000
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1,883,838</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUNDED BY:</b>				
Operating income (amount allocated to fund capital items)	354,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Capital Grants - Prior Year Carry Forward Funding	1,209,838	-	-	-
Transfers from Capital and Fleet Reserves	230,000	-	-	-
Proceeds from Sale of Assets	90,000	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUNDING</b>	<b>(1,883,838)</b>	<b>(150,000)</b>	<b>(150,000)</b>	<b>(150,000)</b>



# Budget by Planned Major Capital Works and Infrastructure Related Programs

Class of Assets	By Major Capital Project**	Total Prior	Draft	Draft	Draft	Draft	Total Planned	Expected Project Completion Date
		Year(s) Actuals	Budget 2026-2027	Budget 2027-2028	Budget 2028-2029	Budget 2029-2030	Budget \$ (F = A+B+C+D+E)	
		\$ (A)	\$ (B)	\$ (C)	\$ (D)	\$ (E)		
Infrastructure	Upgrade Fuel Tank at Minjilang	200,000	100,000	-	-	-	300,000	31/12/2026
Infrastructure	Maningrida Oval Changerooms	4,275,140	306,560	-	-	-	4,581,700	31/12/2026
Infrastructure	Jabiru Lakeside Precinct	-	790,000	-	-	-	790,000	31/12/2026
Infrastructure	Maintain and Upgrade Street Lighting***	102,000	112,706	120,595	129,037	138,070	602,408	On-going
Fleet	4WD Buses-Gunbalanya and Maningrida	294,578	143,278	-	-	-	437,856	31/12/2026
Fleet	Replace Fleet	-	544,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	994,000	On-going
<b>Total</b>		<b>4,871,718</b>	<b>1,996,544</b>	<b>270,595</b>	<b>279,037</b>	<b>288,070</b>	<b>7,705,964</b>	

\*\*The Council, by resolution, adopted a minimum reporting threshold of \$150,000.00

\*\*\*The Maintain and Upgrade Street Lighting program is included in this table as an infrastructure-related program funded by the Public Lighting Special Rate. This amount is not included in the capital expenditure total in Table 2, as it is not budgeted as capital expenditure in the finance system.



# Local Authority Area Budget for 2026-27

LOCAL AUTHORITY BUDGET COMPARISON	Region		Gunbalanya		Jabiru		Manningrida		Minjilang		Warruwi		Total Annual Budget	
	Final Revised Budget Approved** 2025-2026 \$	Draft Budget 2026-2027 \$	Final Revised Budget Approved** 2025-2026 \$	Draft Budget 2026-2027 \$	Final Revised Budget Approved** 2025-2026 \$	Draft Budget 2026-2027 \$	Final Revised Budget Approved** 2025-2026 \$	Draft Budget 2026-2027 \$	Final Revised Budget Approved** 2025-2026 \$	Draft Budget 2026-2027 \$	Final Revised Budget Approved** 2025-2026 \$	Draft Budget 2026-2027 \$	Final Revised Budget Approved** 2025-2026 \$	Draft Budget 2026-2027 \$
	<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>													
Rates	-	18,140	444,759	490,250	1,597,700	1,749,325	745,413	814,063	73,292	85,269	118,237	124,709	2,979,401	3,281,756
Charges - Sewerage	-	-	-	-	750,797	750,797	-	-	-	-	-	-	750,797	750,797
Charges - Water	-	-	-	-	1,674,000	1,574,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,674,000	1,574,000
Charges - Waste	-	-	390,622	396,391	303,185	336,612	735,252	750,568	67,857	74,642	106,664	115,425	1,603,580	1,673,638
Fees and Charges	197,300	197,300	22,000	10,000	385,544	385,544	82,942	100,422	15,150	13,150	32,750	22,400	735,686	728,816
Operating Grants and Subsidies	12,280,397	11,469,981	1,128,919	726,701	541,650	409,760	1,254,613	755,121	1,051,523	898,802	1,369,962	802,435	17,627,064	15,062,800
Interest / Investment Income	160,000	170,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	160,000	170,000
Income allocation	6,005,703	5,475,093	171,321	107,678	64,010	60,796	106,221	93,095	94,159	97,220	28,886	27,686	6,470,299	5,861,568
Other income	84,507	47,009	103,268	16,500	138,862	2,500	20,000	15,000	8,500	7,000	5,500	5,500	360,637	93,509
Income Agency and Commercial Services	220,015	344,609	1,534,266	1,400,303	1,465,473	1,217,070	1,632,866	1,065,505	855,287	809,655	795,613	734,599	6,503,520	5,571,741
<b>TOTAL OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>18,947,921</b>	<b>17,722,131</b>	<b>3,795,155</b>	<b>3,147,823</b>	<b>6,921,221</b>	<b>6,486,404</b>	<b>4,577,307</b>	<b>3,593,774</b>	<b>2,165,768</b>	<b>1,985,738</b>	<b>2,457,612</b>	<b>1,832,754</b>	<b>38,864,983</b>	<b>34,768,625</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>														
Employee Expenses	6,657,612	6,772,509	2,254,639	2,370,514	3,639,572	3,849,628	2,307,736	2,530,205	1,474,726	1,792,574	1,895,094	1,873,811	18,229,379	19,189,241
Materials and Contracts	1,913,522	1,201,177	1,323,235	880,566	1,843,483	1,744,468	1,563,726	1,075,229	508,708	397,708	769,772	388,080	7,922,446	5,687,227
Elected Member Allowances	402,120	454,270	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	402,120	454,270
Elected Member Expenses	289,119	329,319	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	289,119	329,319
Council Committee	7,000	7,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,000	7,000
Local Authority Allowances	-	-	14,900	14,900	-	-	6,000	6,000	6,205	6,205	9,200	9,200	36,305	36,305
Council Committee & LA Expenses	-	-	4,000	4,000	10,175	10,175	8,000	8,000	8,600	8,600	3,083	3,083	33,858	33,858
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	5,271,438	5,271,438	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,271,438	5,271,438
Finance expenses	4,100	4,100	1,270	1,270	1,770	1,770	1,050	1,050	1,400	1,400	800	800	10,390	10,390
Travel, Freight and Accom Expenses	503,589	448,078	142,323	136,550	69,489	75,568	207,430	188,079	199,580	174,754	160,555	127,457	1,282,966	1,150,486
Fuel, utilities and communication	491,042	575,198	355,599	337,269	591,112	577,829	373,368	366,849	306,315	295,790	201,397	181,927	2,318,833	2,334,863
Other Expenses	3,970,027	2,553,790	578,758	545,623	947,980	770,818	923,565	590,343	447,085	381,755	430,242	339,337	7,297,656	5,181,666
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>19,509,568</b>	<b>17,616,879</b>	<b>4,674,724</b>	<b>4,290,692</b>	<b>7,103,581</b>	<b>7,030,256</b>	<b>5,390,875</b>	<b>4,765,755</b>	<b>2,952,620</b>	<b>3,058,787</b>	<b>3,470,143</b>	<b>2,923,695</b>	<b>43,101,511</b>	<b>39,686,063</b>
<b>BUDGETED OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(561,647)</b>	<b>105,252</b>	<b>(879,569)</b>	<b>(1,142,868)</b>	<b>(182,360)</b>	<b>(543,852)</b>	<b>(813,568)</b>	<b>(1,171,980)</b>	<b>(786,852)</b>	<b>(1,073,049)</b>	<b>(1,012,531)</b>	<b>(1,090,941)</b>	<b>(4,236,527)</b>	<b>(4,917,438)</b>

LOCAL AUTHORITY BUDGET COMPARISON	Region		Gunbalanya		Jabiru		Manningrida		Minjilang		Warruwi		Total Annual Budget	
	Final Revised Budget Approved** 2025-2026	Draft Budget 2026-2027	Final Revised Budget Approved** 2025-2026	Draft Budget 2026-2027	Final Revised Budget Approved** 2025-2026	Draft Budget 2026-2027	Final Revised Budget Approved** 2025-2026	Draft Budget 2026-2027	Final Revised Budget Approved** 2025-2026	Draft Budget 2026-2027	Final Revised Budget Approved** 2025-2026	Draft Budget 2026-2027	Final Revised Budget Approved** 2025-2026	Draft Budget 2026-2027
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>BUDGETED OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	(561,647)	105,252	(879,569)	(1,142,868)	(182,360)	(543,852)	(813,568)	(1,171,980)	(786,852)	(1,073,049)	(1,012,531)	(1,090,941)	(4,236,527)	(4,917,438)
<b>Remove NON-CASH ITEMS</b>														
Less Non-Cash Income	(6,470,299)	(5,861,568)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(6,470,299)	(5,861,568)
Add Back Non-Cash Expenses	11,741,737	11,133,006	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,741,737	11,133,006
<b>TOTAL NON-CASH ITEMS</b>	<b>5,271,438</b>	<b>5,271,438</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>5,271,438</b>	<b>5,271,438</b>
<b>Less ADDITIONAL OUTFLOWS</b>														
Capital Expenditure	(6,302,413)	(1,883,838)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(6,302,413)	(1,883,838)
Transfer to Reserves	(1,489,500)	(1,300,000)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,489,500)	(1,300,000)
Other Outflows	(1,400,000)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,400,000)	-
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL OUTFLOWS</b>	<b>(9,191,913)</b>	<b>(3,183,838)</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>(9,191,913)</b>	<b>(3,183,838)</b>
<b>Add ADDITIONAL INFLOWS</b>														
Proceeds from Sale of Assets	90,000	90,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90,000	90,000
Capital Grants Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prior Year Carry Forward Tied Funding	5,031,013	1,209,838	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,031,013	1,209,838
Other Inflow of Funds	1,489,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,489,500	-
Transfers from Reserves	1,546,489	1,530,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,546,489	1,530,000
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL INFLOWS</b>	<b>8,157,002</b>	<b>2,829,838</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>8,157,002</b>	<b>2,829,838</b>
<b>NET BUDGETED OPERATING POSITION SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>3,674,880</b>	<b>5,022,690</b>	<b>(879,569)</b>	<b>(1,142,868)</b>	<b>(182,360)</b>	<b>(543,852)</b>	<b>(813,568)</b>	<b>(1,171,980)</b>	<b>(786,852)</b>	<b>(1,073,049)</b>	<b>(1,012,531)</b>	<b>(1,090,941)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

\*\*OCM79/2026(25/02/2026)



# Schedule of Fees and Charges 2026-27

The following fees and charges apply to all Service Delivery Centres unless otherwise stated.  
**A 10% discount can be provided to Pensioners upon appropriate documentation being shown.**

DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	FEES & CHARGES \$ (GST inc.)
<b>AFTER HOURS CALL OUT / SERVICE FEE</b>		
<i>This call out fee applies to any service provided outside of Council's business hours</i>		
Call out charge	Each	435.00
<b>GENERAL ADMINISTRATION</b>		
Laminating (A4 and A5)	Each	6.00
Laminating (Credit card size)	Each	5.00
Printing & Photocopying (A4, Black and White)	Per page	1.00
Printing & Photocopying (A4, Colour)	Per page	3.00
Printing and Photocopying (A3, Black and White)	Per page	2.00
Printing and Photocopying (A3, Colour)	Per page	6.00
Scanning (max A3)	Per page	1.00
Faxing	Per transaction	3.50
Binding (1-50 double sided pages)	Per document	13.00
Binding (51+ double sided pages)	Per document	20.00
Key Cutting (including blank key)	Each	10.00
<b>REPORTS / POLICIES / APPLICATIONS</b>		
Annual Report	Each	72.00
Regional Plan	Each	50.00
Copy of policies / by-laws / documents	Per double sided page	1.00
Freedom of Information Search (through Jabiru Office only):		
Personal Information		
- Application Fee	Each	Free
- Supervising Examination of Information beyond 2 Hours	First two hours free then set fee	25.00
Non-Personal Information		
- Application Fee	Each	25.00
- Search Fee	Per hour	25.00
- Consideration of Application	Per hour	25.00
- Supervising Examination of Information	Per hour	25.00
<b>TOWN HALL, MEETING / TRAINING ROOMS</b>		
Meeting room	Up to 4 hours	350.00
Meeting room	Full day (office hours only)	485.00
Meeting room Bond (ad hoc users only)	Per use	140.00
Town Hall (Jabiru) - Hall only	Up to 4 hours	200.00
Town Hall (Jabiru) - Hall and toilets	Up to 4 hours	340.00
Town Hall (Jabiru) - Hall, toilets and kitchen	Up to 4 hours	470.00
Town Hall (Jabiru) - Bond	Per use	640.00
Town Hall (Jabiru) - Cleaning Hall only	Per use (if not cleaned by user)	210.00
Town Hall (Jabiru) - Cleaning fee - Hall and toilets	Per use (if not cleaned by user)	290.00
Town Hall (Jabiru) - Cleaning fee - Hall, toilets and kitchen	Per use (if not cleaned by user)	380.00
Video Conferencing facilities	Per hour (min. 1 hr.)	190.00
Video Conferencing facilities	1/2 Day (max 3 hrs.)	520.00
Teleconference facilities	Per hour (min. 1 hr.)	125.00

DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	FEEES & CHARGES \$ (GST inc.)
<b>PORTABLE ASSETS</b>		
Chairs (Non-meeting room use)	Per chair/day	4.00
Tables (Non-meeting room use)	Per table/day	5.00
Tables & chairs Bond	Per use	130.00
Portable whiteboard or screen	Per hour, min 1 hr.	30.00
Portable whiteboard or screen (Bond)	Per use	70.00
Portable PA Sound System	Per Day	40.00
Portable PA Sound System (Bond)	Per use	40.00
<b>ADVERTISING RATES – The Wire</b>		
Full page (Black and white)	Per advert/notice	210.00
Full page (Colour)	Per advert/notice	260.00
Half page (Black and white)	Per advert/notice	120.00
Half page (Colour)	Per advert/notice	160.00
Up to, and including Quarter page (Black and white)	Per advert/notice	95.00
Up to, Quarter page (Colour)	Per advert/notice	105.00
Insert (Black and white)	Per advert/notice	250.00
Insert (Colour)	Per advert/notice	340.00
Insert (Self prepared)	Per advert/notice	180.00
Electronic Edition Ad (full page with hyperlink)	Per advert/notice	95.00
<b>LIBRARY (JABIRU ONLY)</b>		
Used Paper backs	Each	5.00
Used Hardcover books	Each	7.00
Overdue notice (first notice)	Per book	3.00
Overdue notice (second notice)	Per book	9.00
Overdue notice (third notice)	Per item	Replacement cost
Overdue notice administration fee	Per notice	7.00
WI-FI BYO device	N/A	Free
Internet/Email (non-library members)	20 minutes	3.00
Internet/Email (non-library members)	40 minutes	5.00
Internet/Email (non-library members)	1 hour	7.00
Printing A4 B/W	Per page	1.00
Printing A4 Colour	Per page	3.00
<b>FUNERAL PLOTS (JABIRU ONLY)</b>		
Funeral plots (includes opening and closing of grave)	Each	1,200.00
<b>CONTROL OF DOG BY-LAWS (JABIRU ONLY)</b>		
Registration of Entire Dog (without microchip) – Jul to Jun	Per dog per financial year	80.00
Registration of Entire Dog (without microchip) – Jan to Jun*	Per dog per financial year	40.00
Registration of Entire Dog (with microchip) – Jul to Jun	Per dog per financial year	65.00

DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	FEEES & CHARGES \$ (GST inc.)
Registration of Entire Dog (with microchip) – Jan to Jun*	Per dog per financial year	35.00
Registration of De-sexed Dog (without microchip) – Jul to Jun	Per dog per financial year	40.00
Registration of De-sexed Dog (without microchip) – Jan to Jun*	Per dog per financial year	20.00
Registration of De-sexed Dog (with microchip) – Jul to Jun	Per dog per financial year	25.00
Registration of De-sexed Dog (with microchip) – Jan to Jun *	Per dog per financial year	15.00
Registration of a Dog trained for the Blind or Hearing Impaired	Per dog	Free
Tag replacement fee	Per tag	15.00
Release fee (includes first day charge)	Per instance	135.00
Pound charge	Per day (after day one)	70.00
Additional Release Fee (out of business hours – by prior arrangement only)	Per instance (refer call out fee)	425.00

\*Option available only for new dog registrations made between January and June 2027

#### PARKS, ROADS AND PUBLIC AREAS

Stallholders permit (Jabiru only)	Per stall	40.00
Hire of Sport oval - individual residents	Per use	Free
Hire of Sport oval - organisations	Per event (max 8 hours)	160.00
Use of lights	Per hour	15.00
Sign Permit Fee (Jabiru Only)	Annual	90.00
Road Work Permits	Per permit	130.00

#### STAFF / LABOUR

*After hours services will be charged at a 50% rate increase for weekdays after 4:30 PM and 100% rate increase for weekends. Driver (without specialist licence) only to be charged when hiring out Utility Vehicle.*

Site Supervisor	Per hour, minimum 1 hour	190.00
Administration Assistant	Per hour, minimum 1 hour	110.00
Trade person (plumbing, electrical, painter etc.)	Per hour, minimum 1 hour	160.00
Trade assistant	Per hour, minimum 1 hour	105.00
Driver (without specialist licence)	Per hour, minimum 1 hour	105.00
Plant Operator	Per hour, minimum 1 hour	165.00
Pool Life Guard (outside of operational hours)	Per hour, minimum 3 hours	190.00
Cleaner	Per hour, minimum 1 hour	105.00

#### AIRPORT PICK UPS

*Each way – collection from airport to community or return to airport only*

Minjilang	Each way	80.00
All other communities	Each way	60.00

DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	FEES & CHARGES \$ (GST inc.)
<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>		
Guest house room / contractors quarters / bed in dorm room	Per person/night	195.00
Guest house room / contractors quarters / bed in dorm room	Per week (Monday to Sunday)	1,050.00
Self-contained Cabin / Unit	Per cabin/night	220.00
Self-contained Cabin / Unit	Per week (Monday to Sunday)	1,160.00
Storage of belongings	Per day	Request quote
Entire dwelling rental short/medium/long term	Contact Bus Dev Mgr	Request quote
Laydown areas or additional parking	Contact Bus Dev Mgr	Request quote
Extra cleaning charges	Per hour (50% increase for weekdays after 4:30pm and 100% on weekends)	105.00
<b>ACCOMMODATION – CLEANING CHARGES – STAYS &gt; ONE WEEK **</b>		
Vacate clean - 1 bedroom unit	Per unit	550.00
Vacate clean - 2 bedroom unit	Per unit	790.00
Vacate clean - 2 bedroom upstairs/downstairs unit	Per unit	910.00
Vacate clean - 3 bedroom house	Per unit	1,215.00
Vacate clean - 4 bedroom house	Per unit	1,445.00
Standard clean	Per hour	105.00
** need note from Tenancy Team		
<b>SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX (JABIRU ONLY)</b>		
Casual entry (adult)	Each	8.00
Casual entry (13 to 17 years)	Each	5.00
Child (0 to 12 years)	Each	Free
10 Pool Pass (13 to 17 years)	Person	30.00
10 Pool Pass (adult)	Person	75.00
30 Pool Pass (13 to 17 years)	Person	60.00
30 Pool Pass (adult)	Person	115.00
Season Pass adult (3 months)	Person	145.00
Season Pass adult (6 months)	Person	220.00
Season Pass - 13 to 17 years (3 months)	Person	70.00
Season Pass - 13 to 17 years (6 months)	Person	110.00
Season Pass adult (12 months)	Person	365.00
Season Pass - 13 to 17 years (12 months)	Person	185.00
Swimming Lesson	Each	15.00
Swimming Lessons	5 lessons bulk	60.00
Pool Aqua Fitness includes entry	Session	15.00
Pool Aqua Fitness includes entry	10 Sessions Bulk	115.00
<b>SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX (JABIRU AND MANINGRIDA)</b>		
Pool Hire Charge (outside of operational hours)	Per hour	140.00
Pool Life Guard (outside of operational hours)	Per hour, minimum 3 hours	190.00
Pool Hire Charge (Bond)	Per use	515.00
Pool Inflatable charge	Per hour	140.00

DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	FEES & CHARGES \$ (GST inc.)
<b>WASTE COLLECTION AND LANDFILL DUMPING FEES</b>		
<i>Wastes Not Accepted - Liquids (other than engine oils), Asbestos, other hazardous wastes and clinical waste.</i>		
<i>*Any tyre with the rim will be charged additional \$50.</i>		
240ltr Wheelie Bin Replacement	Each	185.00
Wheelie Bin Lid Replacement	Each	20.00
Commercial dumping fees	Per cubic metre	95.00
Car Body (liquids drained) Disposal	Each	130.00
Car Body – Removal and Disposal	Each	330.00
Waste Oil (uncontaminated)	Per litre	2.00
Waste Oil (contaminated)	Per litre	5.00
Steel Encased Batteries Including Solar	Each	30.00
Tyres – small	Each	22.00
Tyres – Medium (Truck Tyres)	Each	125.00
Tyres – Large (Tractor and Loader)	Each	210.00
Tyre with Rim * - additional fee with tyre	Each	50.00
Vehicle Batteries	Each	11.00
Scrap Metal	Per cubic metre	20.00
Green Waste	Per cubic metre	40.00
Gas Bottles	Each	70.00
Fire Extinguishers	Each	70.00
Mattress/Bulky Furniture	Each	95.00
Soil – Clean – Council approval only	Per cubic metre	Free
Soil – Mixed with other waste – Council approval only	Per cubic metre	95.00
Animal carcass – By appointment only	Each Burial	Free
Polystyrene	Per cubic metre	110.00
White Goods	Per item	65.00
<b>PLANT &amp; MISCELLANEOUS HIRE – COMMERCIAL RATES</b>		
<i>All plant hire rates are for the cost of machinery and operator. No dry hire without the express permission of the Director or CEO. Driver (without specialist licence) for utility vehicle \$105/hr.</i>		
Cement mixer (excluding Jabiru)	Per day	185.00
Utility vehicle (no recreational use permitted)*	Per day	414.00
Utility vehicle (no recreational use permitted)*	Per week (Mon to Sun)	1,829.00
Mini Excavator	Per day	1,935.00
Traxcavator (Gunbalanya, Jabiru and Maningrida only)	Per day	2,585.00
Excavator (20 tonne) (Gunbalanya only)	Per day	2,585.00
Motor grader	Per day	2,585.16
Small drum roller (Maningrida only)	Per day	1,935.00
Wheel Loader under 10 tonne (Maningrida only)	Per day	1,935.00
Wheel Loader over 10 tonne	Per day	2,159.98
Skid steer loader (with attachments)	Per day	1,935.00
Tractor with slasher	Per day	1,935.00
Truck - flat top or tipper (Up to 10 tonne)	Per day	1,634.75
Truck - flat top or tipper (over 10 tonne)	Per day	1,864.76
Truck - with water tank 5000Ltr	Per day	1,862.76
Truck – with water tank 13000Ltr (Maningrida only)	Per day	2,024.82
Truck - Large Tipper & Tag Trailer (Gunbalanya, Maningrida)	Per day	2,024.82
Truck - Tilt Tray – Local work (Jabiru only)	Per day	1,850.38
Truck - Tilt Tray – Outside town limit	Per kilometre	5.50
LED Display screen on Trailer	Per day	285.00
Operator for mobilisation and demobilisation of LED display	Per hour	190.00
Water Jetter (Maningrida and Jabiru only)	Per day	2,385.00
Water usage (Jabiru only)	Per kilolitre	3.00

DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	FEES & CHARGES \$ (GST inc.)
<b>PLANT &amp; MISCELLANEOUS HIRE – LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANISATION RATES</b>		
	<b>Day Rates (GST incl)</b>	<b>Hourly Rates (GST incl)</b>
Traxcavator (Gunbalanya, Maningrida and Jabiru only)	2,227.00	330.00
Excavator 20 tonne (Gunbalanya only)	2,121.00	330.00
Grader	2,121.00	330.00
Small drum roller	1,493.00	230.00
Truck – under 10 tonne	1,257.00	200.00
Truck – Over 10 tonne	1,414.00	220.00
Truck – 5000 Ltr water tank	1,414.00	220.00
Truck - 13000 Ltr water tank	1,571.00	250.00
Truck – large tipper and trailer (Maningrida and Gunbalanya only)	1,571.00	250.00
Tilt Tray – Local work (Jabiru only)	1,414.00	220.00
Tilt Tray – Outside town limit (Jabiru Only)	1,414.00	220.00
LED Display screen on Trailer (Maningrida only)	1,972.00	270.00
Operator for mobilisation and demobilisation of LED display	1,414.00	190.00
Water Jetter (Maningrida and Jabiru only)	2,200.00	320.00
<b>MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT</b>		
Barbeque (where available)	Per day	33.00
Barbeque (Bond)	Per use	70.00
Barbeque Trailer	Per use	280.00
Barbeque Trailer (Bond)	Per use	550.00
<b>STORAGE FEES</b>		
Container Storage	Per Week	155.00
<b>WATER &amp; SEWERAGE (JABIRU ONLY)</b>		
<i>Water and sewerage tariffs and charges are regulated by the Northern Territory Government via a Water and Sewerage Pricing Order issued by the Regulatory Minister.</i>		
* The 2025-26 regulated charges		
Water usage *	Per kilolitre	2.2647
Up to 25mm *	Fixed daily Charge	0.9457
26 – 40mm *	Fixed daily Charge	2.4212
41 – 50mm *	Fixed daily Charge	3.7752
51 – 100mm *	Fixed daily Charge	15.2520
101 – 150mm *	Fixed daily Charge	34.0442
151 – 200mm *	Fixed daily Charge	60.5386
0-2 Sanitary Fittings (SF) *	One Off Fixed Charge	953.8900
3 SF TO 24 SF *	Per Fitting	953.89 plus 649.40 for each fitting more than 2
25 SF TO 49 SF *	Per Fitting	15,240.70 plus 609.15
50 SF TO 99 SF *	Per Fitting	30,469.49 plus 565.56
100 SF TO 149 SF *	Per Fitting	58,747.67 plus 525.50
>149 SF *	Per Fitting	85,022.48 plus 508.87
Sewerage Dumped Waste Disposal	Per Kilolitre	74.00
<b>CHILDCARE CENTRE (JABIRU ONLY)</b>		
<i>Discounts may be available</i>		
Daily rate	Per child per day	165.00
Casual daily rate	Per child per day	185.00
Hourly rate (max. 3 hours)	Per child	33.00
<b>CRECHE (MINJILANG &amp; WARRUWI ONLY)</b>		
Daily Fee	Per child per day	15.00

# Contact

**Address:** 13 Tasman Crescent, Jabiru NT 0886

**Postal Address:** PO Box 721 Jabiru, NT 0886

**Email:** [info@westarnhem.nt.gov.au](mailto:info@westarnhem.nt.gov.au)

**Jabiru Head Office:** (P) 08 8979 9444

**Gunbalanya Community Council Office:** (P) 08 8970 3700

**Maningrida Community Council Office:** (P) 08 8979 6600

**Minjilang Community Council Office:** (P) 08 8970 3500

**Warruwi Community Council Office:** (P) 08 8970 3600

**Website:** [www.westarnhem.nt.gov.au](http://www.westarnhem.nt.gov.au)

---

## Access to Regional Plan & Budget

The West Arnhem Regional Council 2026-27 Regional Plan & Budget is available on Council's website by visiting: [www.westarnhem.nt.gov.au](http://www.westarnhem.nt.gov.au) and then clicking on Corporate Documents.

Copies are also available for public inspection at Council's public office as per section 33(3) of the *Local Government Act 2019*.



**WEST ARNHEM**



**REGIONAL COUNCIL**

